

Come Visit
THE NEW
JERUSALEM POST
STORE
22 HaHistadrut St. (1st floor)
Downtown Jerus. off the Ben Yehuda Mithrabe
Sun - Thurs.
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Fridays
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Tel. 02-6241282

THE JERUSALEM POST

Make international connections
From Israel, just dial:
177-100-2727
AT&T

VOLUME LXV NUMBER 19713 FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 1997 • AV 26, 5757 • 25 RABIA THANI 1418 NIS 7.00 (Eilat NIS 6.00)

Back to school: All you need to know
Page 8



A tribute to Groucho
Time Out



Special issue: 100 years of Zionism
The Magazine

Index

- Business 13
- International 6
- News in Focus 7
- Opinion 4
- Shabbat Shalom 11
- Sports 20

Israeli official: Albright to visit region in two weeks
By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will travel to the Middle East the week after next in a bid to prod the Israeli-Palestinian peace process forward. Albright will visit Syria during her first visit to the region since assuming office, an Israeli embassy official said, adding that Jerusalem believes that she can be helpful in trying to restart talks that were suspended a year-and-a-half ago.

The US will officially announce Albright's travel schedule today, he said.

"It's a very good idea," the official said of Albright's stop in Damascus. "You have to do something for there to be talks. We want to speak with the Syrians. If we need the Americans' help to do so, that's okay."

Albright also is expected to meet with Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. But the five-day visit to the region will be dominated by meetings with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

In a major policy speech here three weeks ago, Albright said she would visit the region at the end of August if she judged there to be sufficient progress on security cooperation between Israel and the PA.

At the time, she criticized the PA for withholding security cooperation as leverage and not taking sufficient steps to suppress terrorism. Albright also rebuked Israel over Har Homa, saying it was undermining mutual trust by taking steps to predetermine the outcome of final-status talks.

See ALBRIGHT, Page 19

4 IDF soldiers die in brush fire

Tragedy occurs during gunbattle in southern Lebanon



IDF medical personnel evacuate a soldier who was injured in yesterday's brush fire in southern Lebanon in which four soldiers were killed. (Israel Sun)

By DAVID RUDGE
Four IDF soldiers were burned to death and six others wounded — three seriously — when caught in the middle of a fierce brushfire yesterday following a gunbattle in south Lebanon.

The IDF Spokesman identified three of the soldiers killed as St. Sgt. Oshri Schwartz, 19, from Or Akiva; St. Sgt. Oren Zarf, 21, from Herzliya; and Sgt. Shimon Yadag, 21, from Sderot.

The wounded were treated in the field once the flames died down and rescuers could reach them. They were later evacuated to Haifa's Rambam Hospital and Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed.

One soldier was reported in critical condition and two others were said to have sustained serious injuries. Three were moderately hurt.

OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine last night appointed Maj. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, assistant to the head of operations, to investigate what happened.

The catastrophe occurred in the afternoon after a clash between troops from a Golani Brigade unit

and a squad from the Amal Shi'ite movement. The troops had been on ambush duty in a thickly vegetated valley known as Wadi Hujjar west of Kanana village on the border of the security zone in the eastern sector.

The Golani soldiers apparently took the Amal squad by surprise and opened fire at the gunmen, killing four. A fifth squad member was reportedly wounded but managed to escape.

There were no casualties among the IDF troops as a result of the gunfight, but they stayed in place as fighting continued in the area.

Hizbullah claimed in a statement from Beirut that its fighters joined the battle later and opened fire with machine guns and RPGs.

There were no casualties among the soldiers from the gunfight, but support units were called into action and began pounding the area with mortars and artillery fire.

IAF helicopter gunships also went into action strafing the ground, apparently to ensure there were no more gunmen around.

A blaze broke out in the area and quickly spread. It is not clear whether the brush fire was caused by the "friendly fire" or by rounds fired

by gunmen. A statement by the IDF Spokesman said that "an IDF force in action in the central sector of the security zone spotted a terrorist squad in the early afternoon. The force opened fire killing four terrorists."

"During the clash there was light arms fire and fire from helicopter gunships. In the area of the clash a brushfire erupted as a result of the shooting and heavy winds propelled the fire towards the IDF force. The soldiers detected the approaching fire and tried to extricate themselves but the fire caught up with them and caused the death of four soldiers, and six were injured," the statement said.

OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine said the brushfire was apparently caused by artillery fire.

It is reported that the fire broke out as a result of IDF fire. It said that the blaze spread quickly engulfing four soldiers, who were killed, and then setting off ammunition they were carrying, seriously injuring two other soldiers.

See SOLDIERS, Page 15

Hospital records back Levine-Yemeni mother connection

By LARRY DERFNER
Hospital records from 1949-50 indicate that Tsila Levine was "misplaced" by hospital and immigration authorities, which is why she and her biological mother were separated until now, said the investigator who studied her case 30 years ago for a government-appointed inquiry commission into the Children of Yemen.

Amir Hovav, staff investigator for the Bialout-Minkoysky Commission in 1967-68 and the Shalgi Commission in 1988-94, also said he is convinced by the DNA test and other evidence that Levine is in fact the biological daughter of Margalit Omessi, a Yemenite immigrant who "lost" her infant daughter in the Rosh Ha'ayin transit camp in 1949. Doubts about Levine's identity were raised at Wednesday's hearing of the Cohen Commission.

News in Focus, Page 7

Publisher's message

By NORMAN SPECTOR
Regular readers of *The Jerusalem Post* will have noticed many changes since I asked for your views in May on what you would like to see in the paper. We have introduced a Hebrew press review. The book review section has returned to the Friday Magazine. And we have added new feature pages. The *Post* has expanded its coverage of news both in Israel and abroad. Our editors here in Israel select international news, sports, business and features articles from some of the finest newspapers in the world — with a particular emphasis on those about countries from which our readers have come to Israel.

See PUBLISHER, Page 12

North American Newsstand Prices for J.P. Friday Edition
NY, NJ: \$3.00
Canada: CDN \$5.00 + TAX
Elsewhere: \$4.00

Hotel Concorde
Restaurant • Coffee Shop
Function Hall • Glat Kasher
Tel: 02-5318318
SHABBAT BEGINS ENDS
Jerusalem 6:31 p.m. 7:45 p.m.
Tel Aviv 6:49 p.m. 7:47 p.m.
Haifa 6:42 p.m. 7:47 p.m.
Beersheba 6:46 p.m. 7:43 p.m.
Eilat 6:44 p.m. 7:44 p.m.

Centurion Insurance Agencies Ltd.
PRIVATE CARE AT HOME
or in a HEALTH CARE FACILITY
BEST COVERAGE AVAILABLE • LOW COST • LONG TERM • JOIN TILL AGE 65
Write: P.O.B. 18174, Jerusalem 91181
Call: (02) 624-4556 • Fax: (02) 624-0713

THE HARD ROCK EXPERIENCE IN ISRAEL
Happy Hour Tuesday, Friday between 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.
DON'T MISS IT!!!
DIZENGOFF CENTER, 45 DIZENGOFF ST., TEL AVIV TEL: 03-5251336

SALE-NEWS
PITARO HECHT FURNITURE
UP TO **50% OFF**
Due to renovation and expansion of the showroom, we are holding a sale of display items of Pitaro Hecht and Roche Bobois furniture.
Starting September 1, 1997, for two weeks or while stock lasts.
60 Medinat Hayehudim St., Herzliya Pituach
Tel. 09-9541422, 9558441

Jerusalem of Gold ... or Tel Aviv, Netanya, Haifa, Eilat or anywhere else in Israel.
With a Mizrahi MFRM™ (Mizrahi Foreign Residents Mortgage) buying real estate in Israel can be very simple.
MFRMs allow you to borrow up to 50% of a property's value in US Dollars, Pounds Sterling, Dinmarks, and French or Swiss Francs with no collateral other than the real estate itself.
What's more, Mizrahi will lend nearly any amount with repayment terms of up to 15 years, and no prepayment penalties. Payments can be made monthly, quarterly or semi-annually.
But we don't just make it easy to borrow. We also hold your hand throughout the entire process. And we're happy to manage your property's finances long after the transaction is completed.
If you've been dreaming of a golden opportunity, come to Mizrahi. We'll help make your dream come true.

MIZRAHI CAN HELP YOU INVEST IN GOLD

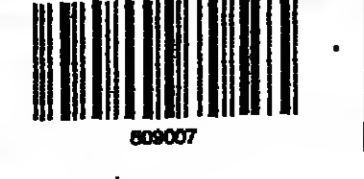
MIZRAHI BANK

TEL AVIV: 78 HAYARKON STREET
ATTN: MR. SASSOON EZRA
JERUSALEM: 12 BEN YEHUDA STREET
ATTN: MR. MENAHEM LEVINSKY
ATTN: MR. BENJAMIN KLEIN
NETANYA: 12 KIKAR HA'ATZMA'UT
ATTN: MR. JEFFREY BALSAM
HAIFA: 26 HANEVIM STREET
ATTN: MR. SHMUEL ORDAN
NEW YORK: 1270 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, SUITE 2303
ATTN: MR. YARON GLOBUS
LOS ANGELES: 611 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
ATTN: MR. JACOB WINTNER
www.mizrahi.co.il 08831/p

TEL 03-517-1636 FAX 03-517-1630
TEL 02-620-8902 FAX 02-620-8906
TEL 02-620-8921 FAX 02-620-8981
TEL 09-834-4577 FAX 09-861-6947
TEL 04-861-4722 FAX 04-861-4714
TEL 213-332-7496 FAX 213-332-7547
TEL 213-362-3999 FAX 213-488-9783

Final approval of all MFRMs is at the sole discretion of Mizrahi Bank.

Jerusalem of Gold ... or Tel Aviv, Netanya, Haifa, Eilat or anywhere else in Israel.
With a Mizrahi MFRM™ (Mizrahi Foreign Residents Mortgage) buying real estate in Israel can be very simple.
MFRMs allow you to borrow up to 50% of a property's value in US Dollars, Pounds Sterling, Dinmarks, and French or Swiss Francs with no collateral other than the real estate itself.
What's more, Mizrahi will lend nearly any amount with repayment terms of up to 15 years, and no prepayment penalties. Payments can be made monthly, quarterly or semi-annually.
But we don't just make it easy to borrow. We also hold your hand throughout the entire process. And we're happy to manage your property's finances long after the transaction is completed.
If you've been dreaming of a golden opportunity, come to Mizrahi. We'll help make your dream come true.



IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Golan Druse convinced future is with Syria

Neither the arrest nor violent reaction to the arrest of Alham Naif Abu Salah, a Druse woman from the Golan village of Majdal Shams, accused of "barring the security of the state," should come as much of a shock to anyone in Israel.

Abu Salah who was taken into custody on Tuesday is not the first Golan Druse to be arrested for alleged anti-Israeli actions. The protests staged in Majdal Shams against her being held, are also anything but rare.

"There are many precedents," said Gabriel Ben-Dor, a Haifa University political science professor who has studied Israel's Druse population. The Golan Druse "are convinced that their future is with Syria," he said.

Ben-Dor added that Golan Druse espionage against Israel, or even pro-Syrian activity, was unheard of until 1978, when Israel and Egypt signed the Camp David accords.

"Up until then there was an affection for Israel," Ben-Dor said. But once the Golan Druse saw that Israel handed the Sinai to Egypt for a peace treaty, they became convinced that their futures would eventually be in Syria, not Israel, hands.

"They read the papers just like you do," Ben-Dor said. He noted a report in a Hebrew newspaper yesterday that the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Americans in 1994 he was willing to discuss a total Israeli withdrawal from the strategic heights.

"The Golan Druse have investments in Syria," Ben-Dor said. "They have family in Syria, they believe that their future will be as part of Syria."

And if that is not enough incentive to engage in anti-Israel activity, the Syrians have their own out-of-the-ordinary means of persuasion. Golan Druse students, some of whom study in universities in Damascus, come into contact with Syrian security personnel who put pressure on them to get involved in anti-Israel activities, Ben-Dor said.



Police take Alham Naif Abu Salah to Haifa District Court yesterday, where her remand was extended until Sunday. She is suspected of spying on Israel for Syria.

Abu Salah studied psychology at Damascus University, and returned home a few months ago for summer vacation. In other cases, according to Ben-Dor, Syrian authorities extort relatives living in Syria to win over potential agents from the Israeli side of the Golan.

Sometimes, he said, the anti-Israel activity is done against the person's will, not out of choice. The Golan Druse have their share of gripes with Israel, including the feeling that they are not getting their fair share of resources, and their view of Israel as an occupying power on the Golan.

Each year demonstrations, which often turn violent, are held in Majdal Shams, usually on Syrian Independence Day, and on February 14, to commemorate the 1982 strike.

Court rejects Salah appeal

By DAVID RUDGE

Israel has set the Golan alight and anything can happen, even an infidelity, a brother of the woman arrested this week on suspicion of harming the security of the State, declared yesterday.

Jamil Abu Salah spoke outside the Haifa District Court building after the court rejected an appeal in either release his sister or ease the conditions of her detention.

The court upheld the Acre Magistrate's Court's decision that Alham Naif Abu Salah, 30, of Majdal Shams, be remanded until Sunday. Judge Haim Pizam also ruled in favor of a petition from journalists for permission to publish the accusations against Abu Salah, providing there were no details that could harm the security of the State.

Abu Salah is suspected of spying and of having been in contact with a foreign agent. Her family has rejected the allegations, charging that her arrest was politically motivated.

Abu Salah herself was not present at the hearing. She remained in a separate room nearby because of an order preventing her from meeting with her lawyers, Nabih Khanjar.

Khanjar said there was a great deal of disappointment the court's decision and that he would submit a petition to the Supreme Court to be allowed to meet with his client.

Her father was allowed into the court building and stood on a bench for over two hours waiting to catch a glimpse of his daughter, but she was not brought out of the room.

Abu Salah, a psychology student at Damascus University, was arrested earlier this week at her home in the Druse village in the Golan, where she had returned for the summer vacation. She was due to continue her studies after the break, along with several hundred other Golan Heights Druse who are studying in Syria.

"I am part of the population on the Golan. Alham is my sister, but she is also the daughter of all the residents. All of them will decide what to do, not just me," said Jamil Abu Salah. "It will be stormy on the Golan and there could even be an infidelity. We have been quiet, but when they hurt us, we have our methods to hit back."

Scores of Druse dignitaries from the Golan waited outside the court building with Abu Salah's relatives during the hearing.

"We have never expected anything good from the Israeli government. We came here convinced that Alham would be remanded," Jamil Abu Salah said after the hearing. "We came to show our support for Alham and so that all the government will know that we are Syrians and that even the arrest of Alham will not change anything."

"We have always been and will continue to be Syrians and the Golan is Syrian."

A large force of police was on duty around the court building yesterday, but there were no disturbances. Police remained on standby in the Druse villages on the Golan in view of the heightened tension in the area.

Rabinovich concerned over lack of progress with Syria

By DAVID RUDGE

Israel's former ambassador to the US Prof. Itamar Rabinovich expressed concern yesterday over the deadlock in the peace talks between Israel and Syria.

"I'm neither optimistic nor pessimistic, but I am concerned about the trend of developments," said Rabinovich, who led Israel's delegation in negotiations with the Syrians under the former government.

"It may seem banal, but it is also self-evident that if there is no political prospect the danger of war increases," Rabinovich said.

He maintained that Syria still favored the peace option as the best means for attaining its goals.

"I would say that the Syrians are working on two tracks," Rabinovich said. "I think they prefer peace, but at the same time they are building their war-like option."

Rabinovich maintained that Syrian President Hafez Assad had twice missed the opportunity to reach an agreement with Israel.

On both occasions the stumbling block was Assad's refusal to accept Israel's terms for peace, including full normalization, open borders and security arrangements.

"Assad could not have made a deal on his terms, but he could have made a deal on terms that by all accounts would have been reasonable," Rabinovich said.

"The main problem was that Assad was not willing to give and take. He came basically with a 'take it, or leave it' proposition - that he was willing to make peace, but only on his conditions."

"He insisted that the cost was fixed - a full withdrawal to the June 4, 1967, border. He made some movement over time on his terms, but certainly not enough to meet our terms."

"Had he wanted to make a deal on middle ground, on terms that would have been acceptable to Israel, he could have done so, but he didn't and therefore he missed out twice."

Rabinovich confirmed reports that former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin had "deposited" with then-US Secretary of State Warren Christopher a verbal agreement in principle to discuss Syria's demands for a withdrawal to the 1967 lines.

This deposit, however, was conditional on Syria's acceptance of Israel's peace package, including security arrangements and the type of peace Israel envisaged.

"The Syrians have claimed for almost a year now that Israel under

Rabin had committed itself to this kind of withdrawal. We denied that claim at the time and we deny it now," said Rabinovich.

"There is one very powerful argument to support our claim and that is the fact that no agreement was reached, even though the Syrians maintain that they had obtained what they wanted."

"The point is that the issue [of possible withdrawal to the June 4, 1967, lines] was never discussed directly between Israel and Syria because it was linked to a whole package of Israel's terms which the Syrians never accepted," Rabinovich added.

Michal Yudelman adds: Labor leader Ehud Barak said yesterday that Rabin did not agree to withdraw to the 1967 borders, but tried to set the issues for negotiation over a peace agreement

Commotion not motion, Rabinovich op-ed, Page 4

with the Syrians.

"I was sent by Rabin to Washington for talks with the Syrian chief of staff a few months after the date mentioned in [an article in yesterday's] Ha'aretz, and received no briefing concerning such a stand [agreement to discuss withdrawal to the 1967 borders]," Barak said. "The Syrians were never given a statement in advance that we would withdraw to the lines of June 1967. Had such a statement been given, we would have been already in the midst of negotiations."

"At the most, Rabin gave the Americans a statement about what kind of things he would be willing to discuss if and when the Syrians enter into negotiations," Barak said.

"Our position was that only after we see what the Syrians are willing to agree to concerning the Jordan's sources, terrorism, Lebanon, security arrangements, normalization, economic cooperation and other things, would we estimate how big a concession we could make in the Golan," he noted.

Barak said the position Rabin took vis-a-vis the Syrians was a responsible move, but it was taken three-quarters of a year after Rabin knew there was no way to resume the talks with the Syrians.

"That's why he started the negotiations on the Oslo agreement, months before the date of his reported talks with Christopher, and transferred the weight to the Palestinian issue," Barak said.

Opportunity in Jerusalem

for Three Special Families

Join us in building a quality residential building of four floors (170 sq.m. apartment on each floor) on our 1000 sq.m. plot, located on a hilltop bordering Rehavia, and offering a majestic view of the Valley of the Cross and the Knesset. Elevator to apartment entrance, underground parking, high standard.

In short, high quality of life, in the full meaning of the term.

Details: 052-511346
052-405097 (not Shabbat)

FOR SALES IN LONDON, GENEVA AND AMSTERDAM

Sotheby's international experts are in Israel to evaluate:

Russian Silver and Fabergé
Mr Haydn Williams: 2-3 September

Russian Art
Mr Martin Saunders-Rawlin

European Silver
Mr Kobus de Plessis: 2-3 September

Watches
Mr Aurel Bars: 3-4 September

Jewellery and Gemstones
Mr Jonathan Condruz: 9-10 September

Impressionist, Modern and Contemporary Prints
Ms Susan Harris: 16-17 September

Travel Books, Atlases and Maps
Ms Cathy Stowther

For a complimentary and confidential evaluation please call for an appointment: (03) 522 3822 or fax: (03) 522 5454 at 38 Gordon Street, Tel Aviv 63414

SOTHEBY'S

If you still believe in Arafat, throw this message in the trash. It's not for you!

Arafat is Preparing for War -
The Only Question is - When Will It Break Out?

Arafat is Unchangeable, and
At the End of the Oslo Process:

- Arafat will control Judea and Samaria only 7 miles from the sea.
- His Army - 50,000 soldiers - will be armed and ready.
- He will have received massive arms via his airport and seaport.
- He will have a million refugees pressuring us on the 'green line.'
- He will declare a Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its Capital.

If You Want Israel to Survive
Let Us Act Together to STOP OSLO NOW!

Presented as a public service by Women for Israel's Tomorrow (Women in Green), POB 7352, Jerusalem, Israel 91072.
 Website: <http://www.womeningreen.org> Email: michael@inetvision.net.il or yoels@jer1.co.il
 Cut out and send to: Women In Green, POB 7352, Jerusalem, Israel 91072 or call Telemesser at 03-636-3549

I would like to participate in this urgent campaign

Name _____ Address _____ City and Zip _____
 Tel _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Air Canada has the pleasure of giving you

Air Canada is celebrating its 60th birthday and we have a present for you. Just join Air Canada's Aeroplan free of charge and when you fly Air Canada Tel Aviv-Toronto-Tel Aviv we'll give you a special gift - a free round trip ticket to one of 11 great cities in Canada and the US: New York, Boston, San Francisco, Chicago, Miami, Houston, Dallas/Ft Worth, Raleigh/Durham, Minneapolis, Ottawa or Montreal. We'll also give you 2500 bonus miles on your first flight as an Aeroplan member. The celebration offer is for Aeroplan members only and is for a limited time. Aeroplan subscription month - September 1997. Last return flight 25 Oct 97. So now's the time to travel... Air Canada. Details and conditions of the offer are available at your travel agent.

AIR CANADA **A BREATH OF FRESH AIR**

Foreign benefits

MARK A. HELLER

Palestinian Police Chief Ghazi Jabali continues to make news.

Several weeks ago, he was accused of inciting against Israel and sending policemen under his command to attack Jewish settlements, and Israel publicly demanded that he be fired and extradited for trial. This week, it was reported that Jabali was suspected by the Palestinian Preventive Security Service of extortion, but rather than being charged, he is being considered for a diplomatic posting in Russia or Romania.

Such stories need to be taken with a large grain of salt. The media may be incorrectly reporting what they have learned, or they may be accurately reporting disinformation fed to them by interested sources. If so, it would not be the first time that a newspaper got things wrong.

But if there is any truth to this week's report, it means two things. The first is that Jabali is being kicked upstairs so that

drawing on Palestinian example. Imagine, for instance, the result if the vehicle license examiners could study business ethics during an assignment in Indonesia or if the engineers who built the little bridge for the Maccabiah games used a posting in Chernobyl to learn how to build big structures. And what about the medical staff at Haifa's Rambam Hospital who earlier this month didn't bother sending an ambulance to meet the helicopter bringing wounded soldiers from Lebanon? Surely they could take advantage of a posting in Cairo to get advanced training from the Egyptian nurse who was indicted last week for killing patients so that they wouldn't bother her during the night.

But all this is small potatoes compared to the potential learning experience of a foreign posting for high-ranking government officials. Environmental planners could clearly absorb much from a year or two in Beijing, central bank governors could achieve even better results after a stint in Bangkok or Mexico City, privatization managers could do even better after an assignment in Havana, and traffic planners could benefit from a posting in Rome or Paris.

But the greatest effect of all would be achieved at the very top level. Compare his modest accomplishments thus far with what could be expected if the education minister were inspired by a tour of duty in Afghanistan. Or if the justice minister could have done graduate studies in law at the University of Kigali while moonlighting as ambassador to Rwanda. Or if the chief rabbis and leaders of Shas could man an embassy and some consulates in Iran. Or if all the MKs were sent to Taiwan, where they could get a proper education in parliamentary decorum.

On the eve of its 50th anniversary, it is time for Israel to stop thinking small and start appreciating the benefits of scale that could be achieved if diplomatic assignments were used for mid-career training of the people who determine how the country functions. Of course, the mere consideration of this idea would inevitably produce a flood of petty complaints by the Foreign Ministry workers' committee. But even they could at least be consoled by the knowledge that if big-time public figures took all the plum postings overseas, there would be nothing left for small-time party hacks. And besides, with so many people sent abroad, a lot of really interesting jobs would open up at home.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

Arafat might send Ghazi Jabali to Moscow. Some Israeli officials might also benefit from some mid-career training abroad.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat can partly respond to Israeli demands without seeming to do so. The second is that after ruckling a penny-ante protection racket for the last few years in the West Bank and Gaza, Jabali may spend the next few years in Moscow, where he can learn to do things on a much bigger scale.

This raises some interesting possibilities. If Jabali does establish some kind of precedent, then other Palestinian officials can follow in his footsteps and take advantage of a diplomatic sojourn abroad in order to learn how to improve their performance. The press censors, for example, could go to Damascus to learn how to do their job properly. Arafat's image adviser could usefully spend some time in Pyongyang taking an advanced how-to course on "cult of the personality." And even Arafat himself could use an extended stay in Albania or Sierra Leone to hone his skills in governance.

OF COURSE, the idea of using diplomatic assignments for professional development should not remain a Palestinian monopoly. Indeed, this is one area where Israel could profit greatly by

cut, however necessary, belongs in the category of military operations that, while brilliantly conceived, result in unanticipated negative consequences. There was little glory in Barak's hasty retreat.

Barak is a tinkerer. In his youth, he enjoyed taking clocks apart to see how they worked and taught himself to pick locks. Amy Wilentz, in a *New Yorker* letter from Israel (May 20, 1996), reports the claim of Barak's critics that "his passion for baroque strategizing has been better suited to dealing with clocks and locks than with human matters." Certainly a mass firing without prior warning or consultation was poor labor relations, not to mention its effect on relations within Labor.

BARAK HAS admitted that he erred. His first major organizational step as Labor Party chairman was a major setback.

So was Yitzhak Rabin's. Like Barak, Rabin remained, until the

end, very much the outsider in politics. Despite Rabin's victory in the party primaries and in the 1992 Knesset elections, his candidate for the post of party secretary was defeated by Nissim Zivli, a Peres supporter.

Now, a committee headed by former MK Gedalya Gal has found Labor in dire financial straits, and has recommended the appointment of a competent administrator, rather than a political general secretary.

Gal has already proven he has more civic courage than political acumen. As chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee, in the period before last year's Labor Party primaries, Gal had the temerity to defy the workers' committee of the Israel Electric Corp.



The will to disbelieve

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

Such grasping at straws is by no means limited to humbugs and pedants. The greatest mind of our century was led into elementary mathematical errors in order to deny God.

When Albert Einstein first proposed his General Theory of Relativity in 1916, two mathematicians, Willem de Sitter and Alexander Friedmann, working

Friedmann pointed out that Einstein's published response to him contained fundamental mathematical errors was Einstein forced to concede.

Even then, he remained highly resistant to the Big Bang theory and refused to acknowledge for a full five years the finding of American astronomer Edwin Hubble that every galaxy within 100 million light years is speeding outward.

THAT RESISTANCE was occasioned by the scientific equivalent of a nightmare. Astrophysicists, concludes Robert Jastrow, former director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Center for Space Studies, were forced to recognize the Big Bang theory as confirmation of a created universe with a definite beginning.

"For the scientists who have lived by his faith in the power of reason," he writes, "the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

Not is it difficult to locate modern man's resistance to God. As

Dostoyevsky's Ivan lamented, "If God does not exist, everything is permitted." For the modern temperament the freedom from restraint is positive, not a cause for lament.

Many who are content to while away their time watching *Baywatch* and the like would be distinctly uncomfortable with the thought that God is in the room watching over their shoulder, and quick to concede that if God created man, He probably had other pursuits in mind for him. Solution: Deny God.

When my younger brother was a freshman at Yale, he took a special seminar in the classics of Western literature. Virtually the entire section on the Bible focused on theories of multiple authorship (Drosnin's Martian band?). My brother challenged the professor to explain why he had not dwelt in a similar fashion on theories of multiple Homers when reading the *Iliad*.

The answer was simple. Homer is not prescriptive; he makes no concrete demands on the modern reader. The Bible, by contrast, insists that there is a divine standard by which we will all be judged. That was an idea too dangerous for Yale.

The writer is a *Jerusalem Post* columnist.

Michael Drosnin's *The Bible Code* is the international publishing sensation of the year. According to Drosnin, there is imbedded in the Bible a secret code that allows us to predict future events. His most dramatic claim on this score is that he used the code to predict the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and attempted to warn him.

To shore up his credibility, Drosnin is careful to insist that he remains a confirmed atheist. Let anyone associate him with those wackos who believe that the Torah is the word of God, he is quick to assure us that he has another explanation for the existence of the codes: Super-intelligent beings from outer space encoded their messages in the Hebrew Bible (which they presumably wrote, as well).

In Drosnin's view, it is just a coincidence that these space beings chose to place their messages in the text that introduced monotheism to the world and which revolves around the special relationship between the deity and the Jewish people.

On its face, of course, Drosnin's explanation is patently ridiculous. No being, regardless of how intelligent, could predict the future one day in advance, much less thousands of years. Chaos theory

makes clear that future predictions are inherently impossible. Only a Being with control over nature could foresee natural events, and only one above time could know in advance how human beings will exercise their free will. Sounds a lot like God.

DROSNIN'S EXPLANATION of the codes is just one example of a recurrent phenomenon: Intelligent people clutching at absurdities in order to deny God's existence. As a child, I read a breathless account in *Time* magazine of the "discovery," by a Near Middle Eastern scholar of naturalistic explanations for each of the ten plagues recorded in Exodus and independently confirmed by contemporary Egyptian papyrus scrolls. For his grand finale, he claimed that the splitting of the sea was the result of a massive tidal wave of the coast of Madagascar, or some such place.

It seems to have escaped the learned professor that the occurrence of an unprecedented and never-repeated event, at precisely the moment the Children of Israel arrived at the Reed Sea, with the Egyptians in hot pursuit, was a miracle of consanguinity whatever natural phenomenon were involved. (Not that one shred of proof for any such tidal wave was adduced.)

Even great minds deny God, because to acknowledge Him would obligate them

Independently, pointed out that the theory could only be correct if the universe was not static, but rather expanding at a rapid rate.

Einstein, however, strongly resisted the Big Bang theory, and labelled it, in a published letter, "suspectious." He made clear what aroused his suspicions. "To one colleague, he wrote, 'I have not yet fallen into the hands of the priests,' and he professed to be irritated by the idea of an expanding universe, i.e., one that began with a single point. Only when

Where is Barak heading?

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

ty for planning and budgeting for the shape of the IDF for the subsequent decade.

BEYOND THE party's organizational problems, where is Labor headed under Barak's leadership? To the development town of Netivot for its next part convalesce, if Barak has his way. For Barak, his major task as party leader is to reduce the Likud's electoral advantage among traditional, primarily Sephardic voters.

Barak spoke of this aim in a rambling discourse at the recent induction of kibbutz youngsters into formal membership in a veteran northern kibbutz.

Speaking off-the-cuff, Barak threw out the rather startling suggestion that the Labor Party must

find the way in apologize to those sectors of society who feel, however unjustly, that they were injured, even victimized, by Labor during its era of political domination.

But would an apology, however sincere, not carry with it an implicit attitude of condescension?

Implicit also is the assumption that there will not be any very radical reshuffling of the political deck. The practical objective that Barak seems to have in mind is to simply make enough of a dent in the Likud's electoral stronghold to win for Labor the few percentage points needed for an election victory.

This is a far cry from Prof. Shlomo Ben-Ami's strategy of creating an institutional infrastructure in the urban neighborhoods and development towns, which would do for Labor what the El Hama'ayan network of educational and social service organizations has done for Shas.

Barak places great emphasis on strength of character. In the kibbutz discourse, he opined that his frankness in telling a mass audience of Golan settlers that major concessions were necessary to achieve peace with Syria would achieve a long-term positive reaction.

He was frank about another subject - Binyamin Netanyahu. He doesn't trust him. He voiced apprehension that Netanyahu, under pressure, might make excessive concessions in negotiations with the Palestinians. Perhaps Barak permitted himself to be carried away. However, the comment seemed to confirm that his basic criticism of the present prime minister is lack of the prized virtue of strength of character. It also implied a reassertion of Barak's far-from-dovish positions with regard to a final settlement.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

MaTaN
The Sadia Ramon Women's Institute for Torah Studies

The New Year At MaTaN

- Join us in Jerusalem for a 3 week Ehl learning program (full/part-time) in Memory of Judy Kaufman Hurwich z"l beginning Sept. 7th - details next week's *In Jerusalem*
- Join us in Ramatna for 2 weeks of Ehl study - details through branch director: Oshra Koren - 09-743-1582

We gratefully share with you MaTaN's growth:

- Scholars Programs expanded to 40 scholars in existing programs & new: Advanced Talmud Program & Eshet Chayil Halacha Studies
- MaTaN's permanent home to be dedicated B"H-Chanukah 5758

PHONE FOR DETAILS: 09-743-1582

SPECIAL SPECIAL SPECIAL

LONDON

Only **\$299** + Tax

Also: One way and open tickets

CALL NOW License # 157 **Tus Ami Aviation 03-649-4940**

24 Ruzov Wilensky St. (Plaza Hotel), Tel Aviv

Need a Break?
Looking for a Beautiful and Peaceful Place?

GRINDELWALD
Pearl of the Swiss Alps

offers you the most beautiful scenery with wonderful hiking tracks. We are looking forward to host you in our beautiful and special Apartmenthouse. Interested? Just give us a call or send a fax.

Address: Andrea and Barbara Studer
Chalet Abendrot, CH-3818, Grindelwald
Tel. 41 33 853 63 00 Fax: 41 33 853 12 51

Yonina Jacobs' School of Healing

Yonina Jacobs: M.A. (Psychology) B.S.S.H. (Healing)
Sole teacher in Israel of **Energy Healing**

certified by Rosalyn Bruyere, U.S.A.
Registration has begun for one year English and Hebrew courses beginning 2.11.97 Course Provides Certification as Professional Healer

Introductory Lectures 9 P.M.

T.A. 16.9.97 - Heb. Jer. 7.9.97 - Heb. Jerusalem course in English and Hebrew
Jer. 14.9.97 - Eng.

From Dan Youth Hostel, From Dan 36, Tel Aviv
Kol HaNeshama, 1 Asher St. Baka

For details: Tel. 02-6733279

A once in a lifetime opportunity to

Touch the very foundations of Jewish History
Discover your forefathers and your roots
Witness the most fascinating sites of our times

VISIT HEBRON

The Jewish Community of Hebron invites you to enjoy an enlightening and captivating tour of the city of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs - truly an unforgettable experience.

The tour is in English

Photo register in advance. Call Mona (not on Shabbat) at 02 956 2233 or 050 279-002

The Jewish Community of Hebron

The Hebron Fund

NATO troops retreat before stone-throwing Serbian crowd

By DAN DE LUCE

BRCKO, (Reuters) - Hundreds of Bosnian Serb townspeople roused from their sleep by air raid sirens pelted US peacekeeping troops with rocks yesterday, forcing them to retreat from positions around a police station.

The angry crowd, including elderly women and men, menaced the troops with pieces of wood and metal bars and threw rocks at armored vehicles, but there were no immediate reports of injuries.

A spokesman for the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) headquarters in Sarajevo said he had no information about the incident, which represented one of the most severe challenges to SFOR troops since they took over peacekeeping in Bosnia in December of last year under terms of the Dayton peace accord.

"We don't have anything to say for the next hour," Major Chris Riley told Reuters.

Officials of the International Police Task Force (IPTF) in Brcko said they had heard some shooting but did not know if there were any injuries. Elements of the crowd, including a man recognized as a Bosnian Serb policeman, smashed office and car windows of the IPTF force, the officials said.

The American troops, assigned to SFOR, arrived in this town loyal to hardline Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic at 3.15 a.m. (0115 GMT), apparently to force the hardliners out of the main police station, witnesses said.

The soldiers refused to talk to a reporter, but the operation was similar to one more than a week ago when 350 British and Czech troops helped loyalists of Western-backed Bosnian Serb President



A bus carrying Bosnian Serb supporters of Radovan Karadzic, decorated with his poster, heads toward Sokolac from Pale yesterday to hold demonstrations against NATO-led peacekeeping forces.

Biljana Plavsic take control of police stations in her northwest stronghold of Banja Luka. On that occasion the hardline police commanders laid down their weapons after a short standoff.

All went smoothly for the US troops, who arrived in half a dozen armored personnel carriers, until an hour later when an air raid siren began sounding and hundreds of people, cursing and

shouting "get out of here" and "leave", poured into the streets.

Elderly women at the front of the crowd battered the gun turrets of the armored vehicles while other people threw stones, forcing the troops to retreat from positions in front of the police station and drive back across a bridge.

A Humvee jeep vehicle parked in front of the police station refused to start and an angry

crowd gathered around it, menacing US soldiers standing beside it.

When the vehicle finally started, some of the women in the crowd started shouting the soldiers.

Young men at a vantage point above a bridge which leads out of the town pelted the US vehicles with stones as they slowed down to drive across.

The incident seemed to be part of a growing and possibly organ-

ised resistance among Karadzic supporters to efforts by Plavsic and the Western community to bolster her strength in Bosnian Serb territory.

On Wednesday, Karadzic loyalists forcibly took back control of a television transmitter at Duga Njiva which had been seized earlier in the day by Plavsic backers.

Column One

The last of the big white chiefs

By Thomas O'Dwyer

Nelson Mandela stepped onto South Africa's center stage with a fanfare that echoed round the world. This week, his former partner in peace slipped quietly out a side exit of his once mighty National Party.

The world once paused to analyze every word uttered by F.W. de Klerk. Would he or wouldn't he? (Survive, end apartheid, free Nelson Mandela!) He did all of them, but this week his political survival option finally expired. His departure answers the last "will he?" question. He won't be the one to change the National Party completely from the champion of apartheid to the champion of the loyal opposition. He won't be the one to build on its surprisingly strong base in certain sectors of the non-white communities.

Now that he is gone, probably no one will. The National Party really has no heir apparent.

The departure of de Klerk confirmed the wispy evaporation of some wishful thinking - the National Party never will win broad non-white support. Conventional local wisdom says the more things change in the new South Africa, the more they remain the same.

Perhaps not; this may be the beginning of the end of the National Party. In current South African opposition politics a party without considerable support within the black majority has no hope of ever seeking power. An opposition without a chance of power is not a party; a country with a main opposition that has no hope of power is not a democracy.

Passed torch

The failure to attract rising black support is not F.W. de Klerk's fault, nor is it black voters' fault. There are many strong old traditionalists in the NP who blantly do not want black support. But among the voters, interest in political machinations are at an all-time low.

Not surprisingly, after the years of struggle against apartheid by the good guys, and the shock of their loss by the bad guys, ending in the huge emotional outburst of the cleftic of the god-like Mandela, most South Africans have had the political stuffing knocked out of them. De Klerk's announcement of his departure this week was overshadowed by Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Olympic torch. Ironically the Cape was F.W.'s last bastion.

A South African newspaper writer said recently the country has become one that chases miracles - in reconciliation, in politics and now in international sports. Cape Town is not considered a favorite to win the Olympics and the brave effort should not make the whole country forget the shaky state of the political system which is its future for long after 2004.

Fields of dreams
"Party today" is fine as long as

there is not a heavy price down the road tomorrow. It is very dangerous for a new democracy to hit the high road without a strong democratic opposition.

Neophyte elected leaders must get used to being criticized, attacked, even mocked, so that the greater good of lively national debate thrives. Mandela's government has no problem with that - but after him? This is still Africa, tribal Africa, and it's worth asking Zulu Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthe how he feels about criticism and opposition.

South Africans' "so what?" attitude to the NP's dilemma does not lessen the serious obligation the NP has to transform itself - or else positively burn itself out and let a renewed force rise from its ashes.

This is a very important, very beautiful country, consistently reminded it is Africa's last chance to redeem itself. From the luxurious seaside villas of the Cape to the sprawling squatter shacks that seem to march in from the countryside to embrace the towns, the nation finally has the amalgamated dreams of Africa, Europe and Asia spread before it.

Game reserves, skyscrapers, huge vineyards, wild life, 11 official languages... As the poet said: *Tread softly for you tread on my dreams.*

Downhill

De Klerk hoped his departure (effective September 9) would lighten the load of apartheid baggage that still slows down his country and his party. His going would have been more useful had there been a credible, preferably black leader to follow him. There isn't.

The party may have succeeded in wooing the majority of the country's mixed race "coloreds" during de Klerk's tenure, but without a new black leader - that's it. The former leader's estimate of 15 percent black support is generous. But the trend is downhill, not up.

Those touted as potential successors are lightweights - wrong people in the wrong place at the wrong time. The conservative Hennis Kriel, premier of Western Cape province, may hail from the NP's stronghold - but he is at heart just a provincial leader in a huge country. The liberal Marthinus van Schalkwyk is probably too young and untried for such a major job.

And the truth is those blacks and coloreds who are paraded as NP voters probably aren't. They were F.W. de Klerk voters and will evaporate with his political career.

Poor old F.W.! Cassandra of old was granted the true gift of prophecy - but was destined never to be believed. F.W. de Klerk was granted a powerful destiny to change history - and not be appreciated for it. As a final cruel joke of the gods, he may cause more change by his departure than he did in office.

Aussie parliament OKs summit on ending UK ties

By TERRY FRIEL

CANBERRA (Reuters) - Australia's republican movement received a boost yesterday when parliament approved a national summit on whether to end two centuries of formal ties with Britain.

Prime Minister John Howard, an avowed monarchist, told parliament that the summit will be held by mid-1998 and Australians would elect half the 152 delegates before the end of this year.

The breakthrough means that there could be a national vote by the turn of the century on whether to ditch Britain's Queen Elizabeth as head of state and cut the remaining constitutional ties to Australia's former colonial master.

The decision is nevertheless a victory for Howard, who insisted on holding the summit on his terms or not at all. He will be among 76 government-nominated delegates who also will include opposition and community figures.

"Finally, the phoney war has ended and we really will, in Australia, have a chance to test in the polls what we believe to be doing support for a republic of any sort," Kerry Jones, leader of Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy, told reporters.

Any speedy move to a republic had appeared doomed by a stalemate over how voters would choose the delegates for a national summit, until two key members of the upper house, the Senate, backed down.

Howard had threatened to cancel the constitutional convention if the Labor opposition and a collection of minor parties and independents used their numbers in the Senate to insist

on a compulsory national vote for the delegates.

But an independent and a Greens senator reversed their earlier opposition and backed the government's plan for a voluntary postal ballot, saying cancelling the summit would set back the republican cause.

"If the legislation didn't get through today, the issue of the republic was dead," explained Greens senator Bob Brown. "This is our only chance during the period of office of the conservatives... to not only progress the republic but to take it out of the hands of the politicians and put it into the hands of the people."

Republican Movement head

Malcolm Turnbull said he hoped the Senate back-down would pave the way for a national vote on becoming a republic by the turn of the century.

"I think there is an overwhelming sentiment among Australians in favor of this change," he said.

Opinion polls show republican sentiment firming again after dipping following the Liberal-National coalition's landslide 1996 victory that ousted the strongly republican Labor government of Paul Keating.

Although Australia is independent, its constitution was passed as an act of the British parliament and its formal head of state is the ruling British monarch, not an Australian.

The unveiling of the tombstone of our dearly beloved husband, father and grandfather

BENNY POLLAK ז"ל

will take place on Friday, September 5, 1997 (3 Elul 5757) at 10:30 a.m., at Har Hamenuhot Cemetery. (We will meet in the parking area.)

Netta Pollak
Renee & Laurence Becker and Family

With great sorrow, we announce the passing after suffering bravely borne of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

RINIE LEVIE ז"ל

on August 26, 1997 (23 Menahem Av 5757)

Deeply mourned and sadly missed by her daughters:
Rivka and James Loevestein
Miriam and Aron Colthof
Nathania and Chaim Braun
and their children and grandchildren

Shiva at the Colthof residence, 26 Shaalvohin, Har Nof, Jerusalem, and on Sunday morning, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., at the Senior Residents' Home, Beit Baruch, Derech Hevron, Jerusalem.

Rabbi Dr. Moshe Edelmann
The Board and the Members of
Adat Jeschurun (Stockholm)

We mourn the untimely passing of our former chairman and friend

JOSEPH (Joe) HOFFMAN

and share the grief of
Margit, Michael, Judy and the Family

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

mourns the passing of

ERNEST SCHWARCZ

Dean and Professor of Philosophy
Queens College, New York City

and extends heartfelt condolences to his family.

Prof. Yehuda Hayuth, President

Bar-Ilan University

mourns the untimely loss of a great man and a dear friend

AHARON MEIR ז"ל

Former Chairman of the University's Global Board of Trustees

We extend deepest condolences to the family
May we be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

World ORT Union

mourns the passing of

Justice Dr. MOSHE ETZIONI

Vice President of World ORT Union
and Chairman of its Judiciary Committee

President of the World ORT Union,
Honorary Officers, Members of the Central Board
and the Director General and Staff
of the World ORT Union.

THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

deeply mourns the passing of

PROF. SIR JOHN KENDREW, C.B.E.

recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry and
Honorary Fellow of the Weizmann Institute,
who served as a member of the Institute's Board of
Governors and past co-chairman of its
Scientific and Academic Advisory Committee

Yamani's son calls for change in Saudi Arabia

LONDON (AP) - A prominent Saudi businessman has written a book calling for the kingdom to take steps toward democracy, according to a published report.

The book, "To be a Saudi" was written by Hani Ahmed Zaki Yamani, son of former oil minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani. It will be published in November in London, according to *The Observer*.

The Sunday newspaper said Yamani proposed a change in the Shoura, a 90-member consultative body appointed by the king.

"The next step would be to have the members of the Shoura elected directly by the population, enabling them to truly represent the feelings of the majority in an advisory role and in an independent non-partisan manner," *The Observer* quoted the book as saying.

Sheikh Yamani now heads the Center for Global Energy Studies in London. His 36-year-old son is a graduate of Oxford.

The Observer said Yamani's book also criticizes his country for spending \$2 billion a year to hire drivers, mainly foreigners, to chauffeur women who are banned from driving.

"How long are we going to allow such waste in our lives," *The Observer* quoted the book as saying.

"When will we start showing the trust that our mothers, wives, sisters and daughters justly deserve? How many more billions of US dollars will it take before we wake up as a society and start behaving as the confident Moslems we should be?"

Clinton's ex-agriculture secretary indicted

By JAMES ROWLEY

WASHINGTON (AP) - A federal grand jury yesterday charged former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy with 39 counts of illegally accepting gifts and favors from large food producers and trying to cover up his activities.

The grand jury accused Espy of accepting more than \$35,000 in gifts, trips and favors from large agribusinesses that dealt with USDA when he headed the agency between 1993 and 1994.

Espy also was charged with witness tampering and lying to investigators about his receipt of gifts, including tickets to a pro basketball game. Among other things, he was charged with ordering a USDA employee to alter a document that had been sought by the Agriculture Department's inspector general. That charge alone carries a maximum 10-year prison term upon conviction.

Espy's law office in Jackson, Mississippi, said Espy was not immediately available for comment.

Espy resigned in December 1994, three months after an independent counsel began his investigation. A former Mississippi congressman, Espy has denied any criminal wrongdoing.

The indictment also charged that Espy lied to the White House when he investigated the allegations as part of an ethics review and failed to disclose the gifts on his government financial disclosure report.

If convicted of all 39 charges and sentenced consecutively he could face a jail term of more than 100 years.

Among the sources of gifts was a lobbyist for Tyson Foods Inc., an Arkansas-based chicken processor. The company has been notified that it is a target of the investigation by independent counsel Donald C. Smaltz, according to a person familiar with the probe.

In May, a federal judge fined Sun Diamond Growers of California, America's largest grower of raisins, prunes and other dried fruits, \$1.5 million for giving Espy \$6,000 in illegal gratuities and for illegally donating \$4,000 to the failed congressional campaign of Espy's brother, Henry.

Sun Diamond lobbyist Richard Douglas is awaiting trial to San Francisco on charges of lavishing favors and gifts on Espy and his girlfriend, Patricia Dempsey.

Smaltz was appointed to investigate whether Espy violated the law by accepting tickets to a Dallas Cowboys football playoff game and \$1,009 in air fare for himself and his girlfriend from Tyson lobbyist Jack L. Williams.

Williams was found guilty in March of lying about providing the football and airline tickets to Espy. But in June, a federal judge set aside Williams' conviction and ordered a new trial.

Douglas is accused of giving Espy a \$2,427 set of luggage and a \$4,590 trip for him and his girlfriend to the 1983 US Open tennis tournament in New York City.

Lost and found: The story of Tsila

Is Tsila Levine's story proof of a plot to kidnap Yemenite children? It all depends who you ask, Larry Derfner reports.

Tsila Levine was "misplaced" by Rosh Ha'ayin hospital and immigration authorities in 1950, which is why she and her mother lost touch until now, said Ami Hovav. He investigated Levine's disappearance for a government-appointed commission of inquiry into the Yemenite children affair 30 years ago.

Hovav told *The Jerusalem Post* he is convinced that Levine is the biological daughter of Margalit Omessi — not only because of the DNA match between them, but also because of the physical resemblance between Levine and Omessi's other daughters, and because Omessi's story of how she lost Levine seems to square with old records of what happened in the girl.

Hovav said Levine was lost in the same way hundreds of other Yemenite children were lost — because of the inability of authorities to keep track of them. "Do you know what chaos there was at that time? There was no administration," he said. In contrast to Yemenite activists, who claim Levine, like hundreds or even thousands of other Yemenite children, was kidnapped by authorities and illegally given up or sold for adoption, Hovav maintained that "there was no kidnapping, no theft, no sale." Instead, it was an all-too-characteristic mistake of the time, he said.

Hovav, a retired private investigator and army intelligence officer living in Jerusalem, was the investigator for the Bahloul-Minkovsky Commission in 1967-68, and for the Shalgi Commission in 1988-1994. These panels investigated the cases of some 650 lost Yemenite children. They turned up records showing that approximately 540 had died; some 30 were alive, adopted or had disappeared before coming to Israel, and about 80 were unaccounted for. Tsila Levine was in the latter category — until now.

Margalit Omessi brought her case to the Bahloul-Minkovsky Commission, Hovav said. She

told the panel that her daughter had disappeared from the Rosh Ha'ayin tent camp, where thousands of other Yemenite families were living. Since being reunited with her daughter, Omessi has said that Tsila was in the nursery at the transit camp, until one day she was just gone. Authorities, she says, told her they did not know where the girl was.

Omessi says she searched the camp, hospitals and other migrant facilities, and never found Tsila, nor was she given any explanation of what happened to her.

Hovav says the last day Omessi saw Tsila was evidently December 11, 1949. Hospital records show the girl was suffering from malaria, malnutrition and a throat ailment, and taken the following day to the Hadassah Hospital branch in Rosh Ha'ayin.

Omessi was never told where Tsila had been taken, she says. According to Hovav, "Tsila stayed at the hospital for about a month, until January 15, 1950. But then she was sent back to the tent camp, and, Hovav said, "This is evidently where mother and daughter lost touch with each other."

The tent camp was divided into three sprawling sections — Alef, Bet and Gimmel, each with thousands of Yemenite families. Omessi had been living in Alef, and Tsila was kept in the nursery of that section, where Omessi used to come to nurse her. Hadassah Hospital records showed that when Tsila was brought back to the tent camp, she was mistakenly placed in the nursery of section Bet, away from her mother.

WHY COULDN'T the camp authorities find Levine? "They fouled up the names," Hovav said, adding that this was how many Yemenite children were lost.

Levine was listed on her immigrant's certificate (*shardat ota*) as "Sa'ada Mazal" (bat Yosef Komemi), Hovav said. "Some Romanian nurse, or whoever, looked at this name, didn't know what to make of it, and wrote



As a mother's dream comes true and a daughter's quest ends, Margalit Omessi (left) and Tsila Levine at the Cohen Commission this week. (Issac Harari)

down something else." Levine's mother was listed as Margalit Omessi, and later, after a remarriage, as Margalit Barzilai, Hovav said. With the comings and goings, language barriers and general anarchy of the tent camp, the two were never reunited in the camp.

Meanwhile, camp authorities had a baby on their hands, and a mother who couldn't be found. So Tsila was put up for adoption, Hovav said.

He said he has located about 10 adopted Yemenite children, mostly in the US, who told him

they do not want to try to find their biological parents. However, there are a number of Yemenite adoptees who, like Levine, do want to find their biological parents and have been searching for them.

SAMPSON GIAT, president of the Yemenite Jewish Federation of America, "discovered" Tsila Levine. It happened about 12 to 18 months ago, after Giat made an appeal on a Habad satellite television program in the US to adoptees who believe they were among the "lost Yemenite children."

Levine, who lives in Sacramento, was one of four adoptees who replied, Giat told

The Jerusalem Post. He said he concentrated on Levine's case because she had the best documentation on her adoption, and thus stood the strongest chance of finding her biological parents.

Giat is accompanying Levine on her visit to Israel. He is, he said, very familiar with the hospital records cited by Hovav, adding, "I don't doubt that they're correct."

Where Giat and other Yemenite Jewish activists differ from Hovav and those connected with the investigatory commissions is in maintaining that Levine and other Yemenite children were not innocently lost, but kidnapped and sold into adoption.

"You look at pictures of Yemenite children from that era and you see that they were wearing identification bands on their wrists," Giat said. "The doctors knew who they were and who they belonged to." Giat and other activists maintain that there is extensive documentation from the Children of Yemen affair pointing to a plot by Israeli authorities to steal children from their parents and sell them to childless Ashkenazi couples.

After finding Levine, Giat said, he testified about her case before the current commission of inquiry being held in Jerusalem's Beit Agnon and headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Yehuda Cohen. He implored the commission to use its considerable powers to find Levine's parents, Giat said, but Cohen essentially brushed him off.

THE DOUBTS raised about Levine's identity at Wednesday's commission hearing left her saddened but still absolutely certain that she is Omessi's biological daughter, Levine told the *Post*. "I felt like we were in a war, that somebody was trying to take my happiness away from me," she said. "It was very sad." She was referring to the questions put to her by Dror Nahmani-Roth, a deputy state prosecutor working with the Cohen Commission.

Nahmani-Roth noted that Levine's Israeli adoption papers say she was adopted in February 1949, but that Omessi's identification card says Omessi did not immigrate to Israel until seven months later. Levine's attorney, Rami Tsuberi, maintained in court that the documents were forgeries. Levine said later, "The DNA tests prove beyond a shadow of a doubt [that Omessi is her biological mother], and I don't rely on any documents that came out of offices from that time." Dr. Gbassan Khatib of Hebrew University's genetics department recently tested blood samples from Levine, Omessi and her other daughters, and determined a 99.99143 percent probability — the highest possible DNA verification, Khatib noted — that Levine was truly Omessi's biological daughter.

Yet because of the discrepancies in Levine's and Omessi's documents, the Cohen Commission wants Levine to retake the DNA test. Levine says she is eager to comply. "I'll take the test with anybody [the commission appoints to conduct it]," she said. Giat derided the questions about Levine's identity that the commission raised, saying, "They can't have it both ways. They can't say a lot of records were lost, that a lot of mistakes were made, that there was so much confusion — and then try to rely on these dates like they were engraved in stone."

SOMEWHERE IN JERUSALEM
\$10,000 PRIZE AWAITS YOU
 Join us on a virtual historical tour of Jerusalem on Internet:



Surprisingly, you'll discover that the Hurva Synagogue was destroyed twice, that Caliph Omar never built a mosque in Jerusalem and that King David has no connection with the tower that bears his name. On concluding the tour just e-mail your entry and participate in the draw of the \$10,000 donated by the United Mizahi Bank.

THE JERUSALEM POST www.jerusalem-treasure.org.il

GORDON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
 MT. Carmel Haifa

Program for English Teaching Certificate

Gordon College of Education, in a joint project with the English Inspectorate of the Ministry of Education, is opening a course leading to an English Teaching Certificate. Graduates of the two-year course will be certified to teach English through the high school level. Tuition loans are offered for the first year of studies. Students will be considered for teaching positions in tandem with their studies in the second year of the program.

Requirements:
 A B.A. from a university in an English speaking country or a B.A. in English from any accredited institution.

For further information call:
 Gordon College 04-8590116 or 04-8590111
 (Irit or Sarah)

"50 in Harmony" - a Libi Classi CD

The Friends of the Libi Fund have decided to mark the 50th anniversary of the State, and express their love of country, support for the Libi Fund, and hopes for harmony and peace, in the following way:

In January 1998, a compact disk, produced by the Libi Classi group (a section of the Friends of the Libi Fund) will be issued.


לביי קאסי
 50 - נהרמוניה

Give the ideal gift in Israel's jubilee year. Price: NIS50 - a contribution to the Libi Fund.

THE CONSERVATORY of the JERUSALEM RUBIN ACADEMY of MUSIC and DANCE
 Under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and Culture With the support of the Jerusalem Municipality

DANCE CLASSES
 • Classical Ballet
 • Modern Dance • Creative Dance
 • Jazz • Dance Groups for Adults.
 Instruction by experienced teachers, under the direction of Prof. Hassia Levy-Agron

Further information and registration at the Conservatory Office
 7 Smolenskin Street, Tel. 02-5618881, 5619443
 Sunday - Thursday 10 am - 1 pm and 6pm - 8 pm



L.A. Mayer Museum for Islamic Art

You are cordially invited to attend the opening of an exhibition

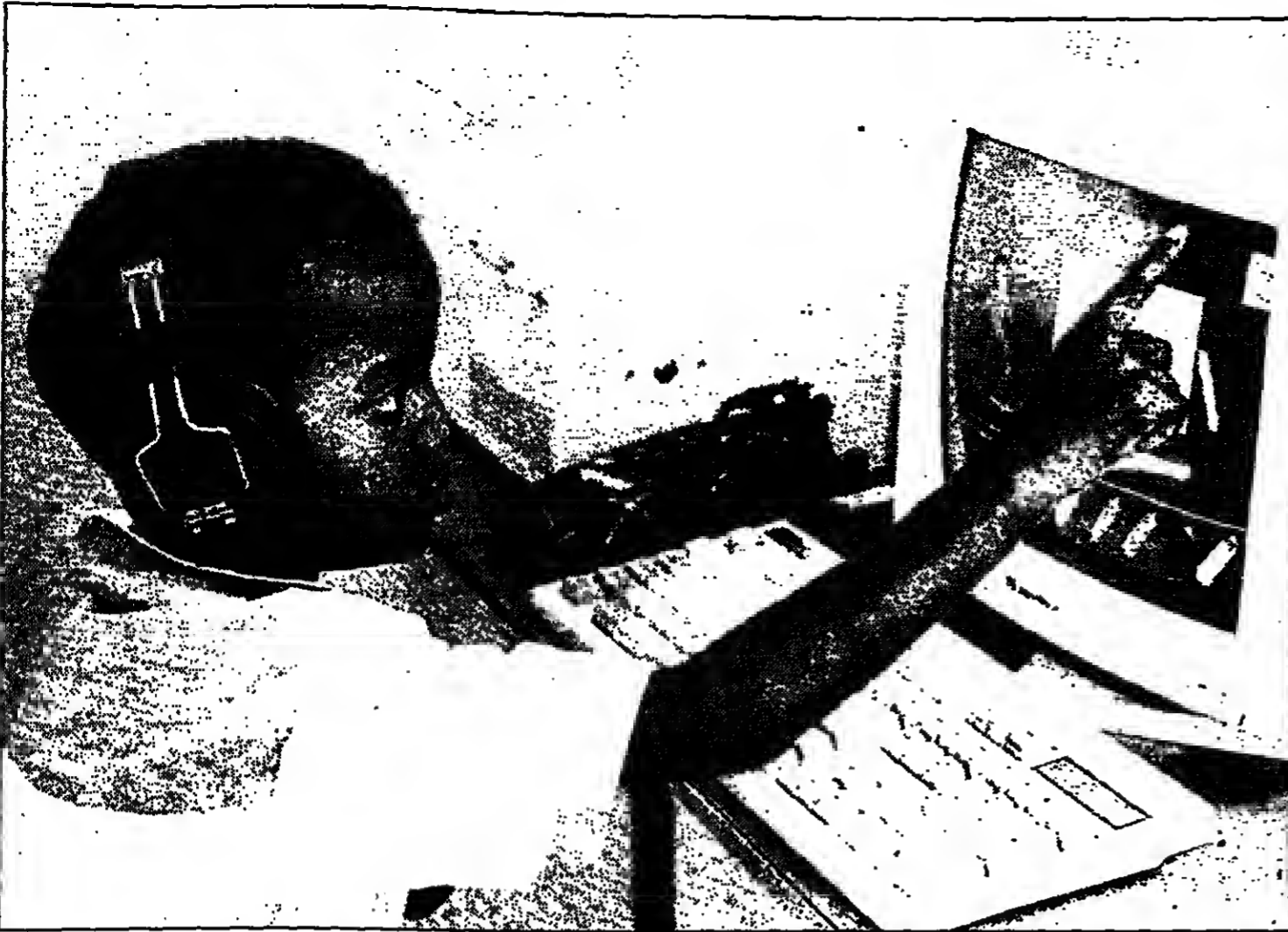
Palestinian Costumes
Rainbow of Colors

from the collection of M. Kleidman

in the presence of
 The Mayor of Jerusalem M.K. Ehud Olmert
 M.K. Nawaf Massalha

Opening remarks: Mrs. Rachel Hasson

The opening will take place on Tuesday 2.9.97 at 19:30 at the Museum for Islamic Art 2 Hapalmach Street Jerusalem



Education Ministry plans call for reading and writing to be taught partly by computer.

What will they be learning — and how?

Flexibility is the key to today's curricula — and, of course, more computers

They'll study less, you'll pay more — that much you know. But once your children settle down to the classroom on September 1, will they be studying anything new? And what will be new about the way they learn?

Elementary school pupils will feel the changes essentially in three areas, according to Dr. Ilana Zailer, director of the Education Ministry's Elementary Education Administration.

"The first is the organization of classroom hours," said Zailer. "Things will be much more flexible. Instead of having a program in which time is devoted to each subject on a daily basis, the schools themselves will be able to determine just how much class time gets allotted to each subject. For instance, a school could decide to devote an entire week to a particular subject."

"Overall, learning will also be done in a more interdisciplinary fashion," Zailer said. "In Hebrew language study, for example, instead of having one class for writing, one for grammar and so on, the approach will be more integrated. It will also be used where subjects can be integrated with each other."

"We're pushing to change the concept of the pupil-teacher relationship," Zailer noted. "A teacher shouldn't be just an instructor, and the pupil isn't there just to be spoon-fed knowledge. There are other sources of information too; they need to be explored and included. We hope to have pupils do more

see only once a week. It will be accessible — like a pencil or a pocket calculator is now," Zailer refers to what is being created as "a new literacy."

More resources will be made available within the elementary schools, which will hopefully prompt "the kids and not the teachers to ask the questions." These new resources will also be used to teach the same subjects in more innovative ways.

As Zailer put it, "You can't teach different history, but you can teach history differently."

SECONDARY school pupils will also find some changes this fall, according to Ruth Ottolenghi, director of the ministry's Secondary School Education Division — although the threatened strike made it "difficult to talk about the better, when we don't even know if we're going to have bread."

One change will be a new option allowing pupils to adopt "a more modular approach" to taking matriculation exams.

Under the new system, a pupil will be able to be tested in just part of his exam and receive a grade in his school. This grade will not be entered on his matriculation result, but will be used as another component when he feels ready to take the remaining part of the exam. In other words, the earlier grade can be counted as part of the overall matriculation exam result.

This means that some pupils who were afraid in the past to consider taking an entire exam in a particular subject will be able to take it in stages, with the first part serving as a jumping-off point for the additional test.

High schools will also be doing more to increase pupils' motivation for army service. Include will be "various activities we will undertake with the homeroom teachers and other instructors," Ottolenghi explained.

Do you think your child's secondary school is too large? Ottolenghi and her ministry associates agree. "We want to rethink the whole idea of school size," she said. "Some of the schools have recently gotten much too large — to put it mildly. We plan to discuss this with the ministry's development authority, and we'll be doing a survey about the optimum size of schools, which differs from place to place."

As for what will be going on inside the classrooms themselves, science, history and languages are three areas that will experience changes. One program is aimed at pupils in the upper grades who don't elect to study those subjects. "In the past, they wouldn't have had to take these courses at all," Ottolenghi notes, "but the Harari Commission recommended that

no pupil be allowed to finish high school without at least a basic knowledge of science and technology." For these pupils, the approach will be geared to how science and technology serves man.

History will be taught in a more integrated fashion, she went on. "Pupils will learn about what was going on here and abroad during the same period; the curriculum will also be updated, since this particular approach has, until now, ended with the creation of the state."

One major change will be junior high school students having to take a second foreign language, the emphasis being on Arabic or French. "We live in a state in the Middle East, with a large Arab population. All our neighbors speak Arabic," Ottolenghi said. "There is also the element of a demand for equality by Israeli Arabs, who are required to learn Hebrew and Arabic," she explained.

The emphasis on French will benefit the many Alliance schools, and there is a sizable population of immigrants from French-speaking countries, she added.

Pupils studying art will find the approach less chronological and more based on varying subjects and styles, while the increase in the number of schools offering programs in film, theater, art and music is expected to continue.

ENGLISH classes everywhere will also see differences this year as schools continue to implement the Bridges program. This is based on teaching reading, writing, listening and

'The teacher isn't just an instructor, and the pupil isn't there just to be spoon-fed knowledge by the teacher.'

speaking together, but without the overwhelming emphasis on those "boring" grammar exercises pupils complain constantly about.

According to Judy Steiner, the Education Ministry's chief inspector of English, "Grammar will be taught as it comes up, and not just for its own sake. Instead of filling in examples of 'has, had, is, were' and so on, there will be more emphasis on reading in the younger grades."

This emphasis on reading is exemplified by the ministry's having granted junior high schools NIS 1.5 million to buy books for seventh graders last year, aimed at having the pupils choose their own books to read. Elementary schools received an added NIS 500,000 worth of books.

"We're putting tremendous emphasis on reading for pleasure," Steiner says. "Research shows that if you want to improve your written grammar and vocabulary, the best way is by reading more." Matriculation exams in English will also feature more emphasis on writing, she said.

Asked about parents' complaints about the low level of English teaching in some schools, Steiner answered: "We suffer from a chronic lack of English teachers, something that obviously affects the quality of teaching. This year is one of the first where, in some areas, we have a general surplus of English teachers."

Steiner denied that the problem had led the ministry to "import" teachers. She explained that the ministry, along with the Jewish Agency, was simply offering to train immigrants from English-speaking countries with a BA to become English teachers. "We're encouraging aliyah, while at the same time ending up with a nice group of English teachers," she said.

While English will continue to be a required subject beginning only in fourth grade, parents who get together to request the ministry's permission can have those classes start even earlier at their children's school.

But in any language, parents can only hope that the school year gets under way on time. If not, they risk seeing some of these exciting innovations go by the board.

Break's over —

It seemed as if those summer months pupils adore and parents dread would never end. But September 1 is almost here, and it'll be books not beaches from now on. Aryeh Dean Cohen looks at what children, parents and teachers can expect from this new school year.

Cutbacks that bite

Shmuel Abuav doesn't like to be seen as a prophet of doom, but his list of the ills that afflict the nation's school system certainly makes him sound like one.

Crumbling school buildings, widespread theft of computers and more crowded classrooms are some of the concerns Abuav has been monitoring as chairman of the Union of Local Authorities' education committee, which makes him the local councils' watchdog on education. As such, he's been growling more than wagging his tail of late, giving some of the serious problems youngsters may encounter when they walk into school on Monday.

Naturally Abuav's first concern is the cuts in the ministry budget, which he says will affect the schools in several different ways, particularly in terms of class size.

He says that if the cuts are not avoided at the 11th hour, some 70,000 classroom hours will be lost, which would increase overcrowding in the schools.

"Some classes may be combined," he says. "The maximum number of children permitted in a classroom is 41, but in some schools in small communities, grades may be combined too. For example, in classes where there are fewer than 20 kids, they will combine classes, even if the children are of different ages."

Youngsters also may not find their favorite teachers when they return to school, since the cuts could mean firing some 2,000 teachers, according to Abuav.

"These teachers are generally those who have just completed their first or second year of teaching," he says. "They're generally the most motivated, with the most up-to-date skills and

Youngsters could find their favorite teachers gone, since the cuts may mean the firing of some 2,000 teaching staff

knowledge. They've only recently finished school, and are the ones who have been exposed to the most advanced materials. Many of them are now looking for work outside the educational field."

Your child's teacher is also likely to miss out on important advanced teacher-training courses this year. According to Abuav, these special courses, largely school-wide study days, were instituted two years ago. Some 70 percent of teachers participated in them.

"It was very important,

because it meant that the teachers would also learn," he explained. "These classes helped teachers bring innovations into the classroom."

Besides the problems inside the schools, Abuav is concerned about what's going on outside — particularly up on the roof of some of the crumbling school structures.

"There is a significant problem involving older schools throughout the country," he said. "There are some 1,800 such schools, many built 30, 40 or even 50 years ago. Some are roofed with asbestos, which can crack. The result can be pupils and teachers breathing in carcinogenic dust. Fire hazards are also a concern."

"More than 300 classrooms are built out of flammable material," Abuav observes. "In many cases, the electrical system in these classrooms is near collapse; one short circuit and the whole classroom could turn into a firetrap in minutes."

"Other schools have outdated water and sanitation systems that need replacing. Some simply have cracks in them."

"To deal with the structural problems in the schools we estimate a budget of NIS 450 million needed this year." After the cuts, Abuav observes, "we have a budget of NIS 75m."

See ABUAV, Page 12



Arab pupils study three languages but aren't allocated extra teaching hours. (Brian Headley)

Arab schools: From bad to worse

Not enough classrooms, an alarming loss of teaching hours, woefully few computers. You mention it, the Arab sector hasn't got it.

From not enough classrooms to a severe shortage of special-education teachers, the forecast for this school year in the Arab sector is particularly dreary, says Ragimna Sour, head of the Nazareth Municipality's education department and a member of the Arab Local Councils' monitoring committee on education.

One main problem, says Sour, is a lack of coordination between the Education Ministry and the schools' on pedagogical and other matters. There simply aren't enough inspectors in the field to let the ministry know what's happening in the schools.

He cites the example of a study theme for the school year. "Last year it was 'Rights and Obligations,' and it'll probably end up being the same this year. As a result, no one relates to the study theme seriously. It's just ignored, or not taught at all."

An Education Ministry spokeswoman said that this year's theme, Israel's 50th anniversary, would be implemented in the Arab and Druze sectors as well.

A more serious problem is the lack of funds for building some much-needed new classrooms. "The situation had undergone slight improvement and there were plans for building," Sour notes. "But despite that, the process is at a standstill." In Nazareth and Umm el-Fahh, he says, financing hasn't been forthcoming for a significant

number of new classrooms, even though 72 are needed right now in Nazareth alone. Funds for renovating existing structures are also hard to come by.

"To create an atmosphere that is conducive to education," Sour says, "you need first to renovate the schools. The Arab sector has received very small budgets for this, and then only for the big cities."

Early childhood education is in serious trouble, with no nursery schools or kindergartens being built either, Sour laments. "Local councils are having all kinds of trouble finding the proper buildings," Sour says. "While in the Jewish sector 98 percent of children aged three to five go to kindergarten, in the Arab sector only 25 percent of three-year-olds go, and about 40 percent of four-year-olds."

SOUR EXPECTS the cuts in the Education Ministry budget to translate into a loss of about two hours per class. This will constitute an even heavier burden on the Arab-sector schools, he sighs. Pupils study three languages, but aren't allocated the extra teaching hours needed from the ministry, or compensated for the fact that in some schools religious studies have to be broken down into classes for Christians and classes for Muslims.

Special education is also a serious problem, with not enough money available to add the teach-

ing positions that are so desperately needed.

"The government has not fully implemented the Special Education Law, which lays down that any child who needs special education be enabled to receive it," Sour says. "We are missing tens of thousands of necessary teaching hours. The problem is particularly serious in the south."

If the school computerization program has been slow to take hold in the Jewish sector, in the Arab sector it is progressing at a snail's pace, no more.

"In Nazareth, only one of 20 elementary schools has been computerized," he notes. And funds for laboratory equipment generally only reach the Arab-sector schools at the end of the school year, making it "practically useless for planning purposes," Sour says. There is also a sore lack of after-school programs for the underprivileged.

For Sour, the new school year holds more questions than answers. "We are entering the school year with a huge amount of uncertainty over what is going to happen," he says.

One thing is pretty certain, however. Arab pupils will be going home earlier from school this year. Another good bet: The Arab local councils are unlikely to let the bad situation in their schools continue without a protest. They might even close down the schools. —A.D.C.

The maxim behind one new program: Pupils' abilities should not be measured by tests alone.

independent work on certain subjects, especially exploring source material."

Pupils with mild learning problems will continue to benefit from the Betzava program, designed to keep as many as possible in regular classes as opposed to being sent for special education.

This program allows pupils with special needs to make progress within the framework of regular classes," Zailer explained, adding that the aim is to reduce the number of pupils sent to special education by a third. This will be done partly by allowing these children to get help with their learning problems from their homeroom teachers. The program is to be introduced at the junior high school level this year, pupils who have been in the program for the past two years will be evaluated to see how it has contributed to their educational and social progress.

The maxim behind another new program, to be implemented in some 700 schools this year, is that pupils' abilities should not be measured by tests alone. Accordingly, teachers will be encouraged to develop alternative assessments of their pupils' achievements.

"Instead of someone on the fifth floor of the Ministry of Education building in Tel Aviv deciding how a kid in Dimona should be tested, tests will be formulated inside the schools," said Zailer. "The aim is to give the teachers insight, so they can see that improving the assessment of a student's 'portfolio' is actually part of the overall teaching process. It will also allow them to get a more accurate picture of pupils' performance."

Computers will naturally form a big part of the change in the way pupils learn, at least in those schools that have them. "We consider the use of computers one of the basic skills," Zailer said. "Once there were three rudimentary elements in education; now there are four."

Plans call for reading and writing to be taught partially by using the computer; computers will be used for other subjects as well. No child will leave elementary school without a familiarity with basic computer operations. Zailer promised, including typing and using the computer as a data base.

"The computer won't be something pupils



Ministry guidelines lay down that first and second graders' bags should weigh no more than 2 kilograms, and third to sixth graders' no more than 5 kg. (Rachamim Israeli)

now for the classroom

Parents: the all-important voice

A slightly over six feet tall, Shai Lachman would find it difficult to fit behind your average classroom desk. But as head of the National Parents Association, Lachman probably knows more than some school principals about what goes on in the nation's classrooms and school corridors.

That's because Lachman, who has already put three children through the school system, still has three other school lunches to fix and, more importantly, three sets of school fees to pay this year.

So whether the issue is book prices or school security, the size of pupils' backpacks or the price of school trips, Lachman and his associates are the voice of the parents in the ongoing battle to make our children's schools cheaper, safer and better.

That battle has been paying off - literally - in many areas, chiefly school fees. For while it may not always seem like it, parents are paying lower mandatory fees than they once did.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer has even taken the Parents Association's lead, vowing to eliminate fees altogether within two to three years.

The trend toward gradual elimination of parents' fees is continuing, Lachman told an interviewer recently in his Jerusalem office. "It began as a result of the rebellion against school fees we started years ago," he said.

"Up till now, we've succeeded in getting a significant number of fees dropped: the school guard fee, the health fee - now included in the National Health Law and paid by the government, not the parents - the fee for photocopied materials, which is now covered by the ministry, and the fee for matriculation exams.

"We're saving parents NIS 800-850 million a year, but there are still problems. We hope that within two to three years (a time-frame to which the prime minister has committed himself) all mandatory fees will be eliminated. There is a free education law in this country; we are demanding that the government abide by it."

This year's mandatory fees will also be frozen at last year's levels, but Lachman and his staff have still come up with guidelines for parents who find themselves suddenly faced by fees and aren't sure how to deal with them.

Whether it's school fees or security or the size of pupils' bags, the National Parents Association is fighting for cheaper, safer, better schooling.

Their booklet, entitled *A Guide to the Consumer: Back to School, 1997-98* gives other helpful hints for parents who have children in school.

Regarding fees, Lachman and his staff point out that parents have every right not to pay non-obligatory fees - but emphasize that if they don't pay, their child will not receive the services those fees are meant to cover.

Among items parents should not pay for, according to the booklet, are air-conditioning, use of the school library, the purchase of computers and photocopying of worksheets or tests. Any request for payment sent home by the school should be signed not only by the principal but also by the head of the school's parents' association.

BUT SCHOOL fees are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the hefty bill September 1 takes out of your wallet. Schoolbooks cost a fortune, and have become a pet peeve of the Parents Association.

"Schoolbooks comprise one of the most unregulated areas in the entire education system," Lachman said. "It's a nightmare for parents. Costs are skyrocketing, and the ministry's instructions aren't being followed to the letter."

"You can't always get the books, and lists of required books aren't always issued to pupils before the end of the school year, as they should be. This is a very problematic area," Lachman said. "We're working with the ministry to straighten it out because it is one of the parents' heaviest expenses."

"Required texts," Lachman went on, "are changed more frequently than the permitted once every five years. There are all kinds of tricks; for example, a few minor changes are added and the book put out as an updated, more expensive edition."

"Book prices are supposed to be monitored by the ministry," Lachman added, "but there's still price gouging. We asked for each book to be stamped with its price; but this isn't being done. As a result, a whole lucrative industry has opened up at the expense of parents." A large number of people,

publishers and others, are making big money out of this, Lachman said.

He noted that the problem was particularly serious regarding math texts and workbooks, citing one second-grade work book that cost NIS 71.20 last year.

Shelling out big bucks for a book doesn't mean it will necessarily be used, Lachman said. "Pupils are often required to buy books which, it later turns out, they never use. Sometimes they end up with several books they paid full price for that they didn't need in the first place."

"There is also the ethical problem of textbooks written by inspectors or other Education Ministry people. Schools and teachers are pressured to use those texts over others."

The solution, Lachman said, is to expand the system of lending out textbooks, which currently exists in only about 900 of the nation's 3,500 schools.

"This way books get passed on from one class to another, without parents needing to face such huge expenses," he said. Lachman would like to see parents sitting on a committee that approves the books used in schools and imposes sanctions on schools or on publishers who violate the ministry's regulations on books.

WHAT ABOUT how your child gets those books to and from school? That's another major concern of Lachman's. Small children staggering home under the weight of huge backpacks laden with books is a phenomenon he cannot understand and will not accept.

"The problem is a serious one," he stressed. It causes physical damage to young children just when they are growing up. Ministry guidelines, he noted, lay down that first and second graders' bags should not weigh more than two kilograms, and third to sixth graders' bags no more than 5 kg. Seventh to 12th graders should be carrying no more than 7 kg - on their backs. Bags carried in the hand put additional stress on the back, Lachman said.

Lachman said the solution to all this shlepping is simple: "We're demanding that the schools set up lockers, like in the US. Look," he said, "we're not inventing the wheel here. You don't have to be a genius to know that a situation where second and third graders are carrying incredibly heavy bags is untenable. Some schools have lockers. We want this expanded."

School security is also a concern. The Parents Association's fight for guards at the nation's schools last year means your child will be doubly protected again this year, by a guard stationed at the gate, and by periodic police patrols.

But it isn't a perfect situation, said Lachman. "Not all guards are graduates of combat units, familiar with the use their weapons. We are asking parents to inspect security measures in schools, to make sure the guards have done target practice, that they are there on the spot and meet the necessary criteria. We are, after all, talking about our children's security."

Once your child is safely in school, if it sounds like he or she is having a hard time with a teacher or another child, at what point should a parent intervene?

"First of all," said Lachman, "we don't get involved in the day-

to-day running of the school. It's not the parents' job; for that there are teachers and principals.

"But if parents feel a child is being mistreated either by other pupils or by a teacher, they must tell someone." Go to the principal first, Lachman advises, then to the school inspector or Education Ministry, which has a hot line handling such problems. "Or parents can contact us."

Lachman is keenly aware of the increase in violence at school. "It's very serious," he said. "We believe that the reported figures are just the tip of the iceberg, that the situation is much worse than the 13 percent rise in violent incidents reported by the police."

"Many cases of violence or criminal activity simply aren't reported," Lachman noted.

"There's a lot of competition for pupils right now, and principals and teachers are reluctant to wash their dirty linen in public, damaging their schools' reputation."

"The ministry has programs dealing with violence, but unfortunately we're just talking... there's no real grappling with the problem."

"What we are saying is: Don't sweep school violence under the carpet. Its prevention must be firmly inculcated in pupils via the regular program of study, from first through 12th grade."

Lachman plans to keep fighting for parents' rights. But as the schools gear up to reopen he's stressing their responsibilities too.

"We're living in an overly permissive society, Lachman noted. "Parents are less and less in touch with their children. They spend less time listening to them and being with them. It is parents' critical and natural duty to take care of their children and educate them."

Parents must get more involved in their children's education," Lachman concluded. "They have to know what's going on with their kids, who they're hanging out with, when they come home."

"One can't push the whole burden onto the schools," he said. "That doesn't work. Education begins at home."



The cost of schoolbooks is a nightmare for parents. (Israel Sm)

How much parents will be paying

School Expenses	Kindergartens	Third grader	Ninth grader
Mandatory fees to be paid by parents (Note: dental fee to be paid only where service is offered. Higher fee includes treatment.)	Supplies: NIS 72 Insurance: NIS 27 Total: NIS 99	Study supplies and science kit: NIS 65 Insurance: NIS 27 Dental: NIS 24-45 Total: NIS 106-136	Study supplies and science kit: NIS 78 Insurance: NIS 27 Dental: NIS 24-45 Total: NIS 129-155
Sampling of optional extras (Parents don't have to pay - but unless they do, service will not be provided):			
Culture package	NIS 56-68	NIS 56-68	NIS 151-156
End-of-year parties	NIS 38-55	NIS 106	NIS 127-169
Fee for use of atlases, encyclopedias, etc.		NIS 27	NIS 63
Membership in Parents' Association	NIS 2 per child	NIS 2 per child	NIS 2 per child
Lending out of textbooks (available in about 900 schools only, and would replace cost of purchasing books)		NIS 177	NIS 225
Annual school trips (this does not include other trips parents may or may not be asked to pay for)		Approximately NIS 250	Approximately NIS 760
Cultural and other activities		NIS 56-68	NIS 131-156
School parties	NIS 5-10 per party	NIS 5-10 per party	NIS 5-10 per party
End-of-year parties	NIS 38-55	NIS 106-125	NIS 115-169
Cost of typical school supplies (information courtesy of Kravitz Office Supplies):			
Books (Note: this is an estimate. Price varies widely depending on requirements and availability of second-hand books)		Orthopedic backpack: NIS 109 52 of 20 notebooks: NIS 30 Daily diary: NIS 3.20 32 pencils: NIS 8.20 Pencil case: NIS 5.50 Large eraser: NIS 0.60 Roller: NIS 1 Crayon set: NIS 5.50 End of coloring paper: NIS 2 Total: NIS 164.60	Calculator: NIS 46.90 Backpack: NIS 110-167 17 pencils with eraser: NIS 8.20 Notebook: NIS 3.00 Sharpener: NIS 2.00 Small pencil case: NIS 3.50 Roller: NIS 2 Daily diary: NIS 3.20 Crayon set: NIS 5.50 Set of gum: NIS 2.00 Crayon set: NIS 5.50 Hole puncher: NIS 15.00 Stapler: NIS 8.20 Stickers for books: NIS 0.60 Books: (various)
		Total: NIS 250-300	Total: NIS 269-500



Overcrowding: If budget cuts are implemented, some schools will have to combine classes - even pupils of different ages. (IFPA)

ophir tours Special Offers for **THE JERUSALEM POST** Readers

Jordan and Egypt Largest selection of tours
Jordan - 1 to 4 days
Egypt - 2 to 9 days incl. Nile cruises
Call the Experts: Michael, 02-6252777, Debbie, 03-5229625

London \$249 RL Air

New York \$799 RL Air

Australia Sydney Melbourne \$1459 RL Air

South Africa \$699 RL Air

Around the World \$1649 RL Air

BANGKOK \$799

EL VALINER Weekends
LONDON - 3 nts + air fr \$598
ROME - 3 nts + air fr \$579
PRAGUE - 4 nts + air fr \$592
PARIS - 3 nts + air fr \$579

AMSTERDAM - 3 nts + air fr \$638
BUDAPEST - 3 nts + air fr \$648
MADRID - 3 nts + air fr \$551

Value ALL INCLUSIVE CLUB \$399
Sep. 14 or 21
7/7 air, all meals/sports

Cyprus Limasol \$299
Mandilion Hotel 5* deluxe - Sept. 5
super deals RHODES \$239
3 nts. or 4 nts. in Sept.

PARAGASE
Bangkok 4 days hotel, transfers, airporting \$134
Thailand 9 days escorted tour, hotels, transfers, airporting \$468
Vietnam 7 days escorted tour, hotels, transfers, airporting \$761

Call your Ophir Tours office:
TEL AVIV: Heidi, Debbie, 198 Hayarkon St. (opp. Hilton) 03-5229625
PETACH TIKVA: Duda, 12 Hahaganim St. 03-9345070
JERUSALEM: 128 Ben-Zurim Bk. 02-6252777
Tel. 02-6252778
Tel. 02-6252779
Tel. 02-6252780
Tel. 02-6252781
Tel. 02-6252782
Tel. 02-6252783
Tel. 02-6252784
Tel. 02-6252785
Tel. 02-6252786
Tel. 02-6252787
Tel. 02-6252788
Tel. 02-6252789
Tel. 02-6252790
Tel. 02-6252791
Tel. 02-6252792
Tel. 02-6252793
Tel. 02-6252794
Tel. 02-6252795
Tel. 02-6252796
Tel. 02-6252797
Tel. 02-6252798
Tel. 02-6252799

Prices subject to change without notice. Airport tax, Port tax and registration fees are not included in price. Packages based on double occupancy. Select flights & dates.

Bar-Ilan University
Faculty of Humanities
School for Translators and Interpreters

Registration is continuing for postgraduate diploma studies in Translation (written and oral)

Hebrew - English - Hebrew
Hebrew - French - Hebrew
Hebrew - Spanish - Hebrew

For additional details, call the Translation Studies, Tel. 03-531-8227

Two faces of Palestinian law and order

General Ghazi Jabali, Palestinian police chief, is wanted by Israel. Fayez Abu Rahme is the PA's newly appointed public prosecutor. They represent the two poles of the Palestinian justice system. Abu Rahme despises military power. Jabali revels in it. Abu Rahme is a moderate who defends the legal rights of Islamic radicals. Jabali knows how to lash out at Hamas. Both are in a position to profoundly affect their society. Jon Immanuel interviews them.

LAW

At the end of a shabby corridor and a row of untidy rooms where clerks sift through mounds of files and visitors try to buttonhole anyone who will listen to their complaints, Fayez Abu Rahme, the new public prosecutor of the Palestinian Authority, sits in his small office and ponders.



He now serves a regime for which pomp, parades, automatic weapons, and military intrusion into the justice system is taken for granted.

'I believe my authority is an absolute authority to tackle all prisoners' cases without the approval of a higher authority.'
- Abu Rahme

Those are fighting words that have already put him on a collision course with his employer, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. On August 15, when Arafat was resisting Israel's demands to arrest Islamic extremists, Abu Rahme embarrassed him by ordering the release of 10 Islamic activists.

Abu Rahme said his action was based solely on law.

"Some of these people had been in jail for more than two years without charges. That is not legal," he said.

On Arafat's orders, the same suspects were back in jail 30 minutes later. Two prison officials, Mohammed Atawni and his deputy Ahmed Abu Mulakeh, were arrested for "disobeying internal orders that they not be released," Abu Rahme said.

He takes the rebuke to his authority philosophically and admits to one error. "I should have informed the president. So I consider myself guilty on that score," he says.

Abu Rahme is a name out of the past. In 1985 he was a leading personality in Gaza but his moderate views were overtaken by the youthful tidal wave of the intifada. Considered an independent figure, he was chairman of the Gaza Bar Association for 14 years.

But his deputy, Khalid Kidrah, was appointed as the PA's first public prosecutor. In June, Kidrah was fired in the first broadside against corruption, after being accused of taking bribes in exchange for releasing prisoners.

ty and got the job that perhaps should have been his in the first place.

Because of his high social position Abu Rahme does not seem a type that can be easily seduced by power. He is a man who speaks his mind. Indeed, one statement he made at the beginning of the intifada put an abyss between him and the rising tide of nationalism. As a prominent spokesman for the Palestinian cause, he dismissed then prime minister Yitzhak Sharmir's security arguments against letting Palestinians achieve independence.

"If that's the problem, Palestinian police will go barefoot and carry sticks," Abu Rahme quipped at the time.

Many of his countrymen took offense to

the remark, although Abu Rahme said he had intended to mock Sharmir, not them.

"They did not understand me," he says. "I knew it was impossible to have barefooted policemen." What he did mean to imply was that Palestinians were seeking a demilitarization in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But, he notes that the police in England "still carry sticks."

"The Egyptians used to cooperate with us. There was no argument about an order that we gave. I thought we were now practicing the same system. That was my real mistake," he admits, referring to the period between 1948 and 1967 when Egypt held Gaza.

Abu Rahme's wry humor comes to the surface frequently, indicating he has his wit about him. His reservations about Arafat's interference in legal matters was also shown by Abu Rahme's objections to the lightning trial given three Jericho gas-station attendants convicted of murdering taxi driver Samuel Ben-Baruch this month.

"I am treated like an outsider in these cases," Abu Rahme said.

He said he had no knowledge of the Jericho case until after the fact, and went public with his objections to the way the trial was carried out, saying on television, "you can't make justice in 30 minutes."

"Accused people have to be given the opportunity to defend themselves. I remember in the Fifties that when anybody confessed to a huge felony like murder the judges also had to consider the evidence," Abu Rahme adds.

What is most noticeable about the man is that he argues not on the basis of abstract principles, but on what he sees as a tradition of Palestinian justice he would like to see his people resume.

He recognizes, however, that the present is a little different from the past. He does not reject military courts entirely, "in our special circumstances." But he cautions that "treatment of the facts must be wider, wiser and just."

See ABU RAHME, Page 12

ORDER



'The whole problem with the Israelis is they are amazed at how the police force has developed. This is why their argument is against me and not against any other part of our security organization.'
- Jabali

never questioned him about what the captured policemen were up to.

Jabali admits that the affair has "something to do" with the trial of three members of Force 17, Arafat's personal security guards, and a fourth Palestinian in Nablus this month for harassing residents of Asira Qibilya, a village near Bracha.

The ringleader was sentenced to death as a collaborator.

Security sources in Nablus linked the three Force 17 members to a known collaborator called Harb Yunis who lives under Israeli protection in Bracha. They believe that Jabali may have authorized his eager policemen to see if they could capture Yunis, who had been named by the condemned Force 17 ringleader as his contact.

Based on this theory, Jabali may simply never have considered the violence that could have resulted from having Palestinians try to abduct someone from in or around an Israeli settlement.

Palestinian security sources note, however, that the incident occurred after IDF undercover troops entered Tulkarm to abduct an escaped Islamic Jihad prisoner, although the town is under Palestinian control.

Jabali may have considered it a matter of pride to match that feat, the sources say.

Palestinians consider it odd that Jabali, rather than an undercover security agency, should have been charged with such a plot anyway.

"Many people think that he put the story out himself to create a new image. He was considered by most people to be closer to Israel than to his own people, almost a collaborator," says (Thassan Khattib, a Palestinian political commentator).

Subordinates say Jabali still wants assurances that he won't be arrested.

But his relations with Israel already seem to be on the mend, and there are signs that the case against Jabali may be dying, although his three police officers, near Bracha, are still in custody.

Three weeks ago Jabali was reported beefing up security around his headquarters for fear that Israeli agents would try to get him. Now he says the Israelis have lost interest.

He adds that his Israeli colleagues have

settlement near Nablus last month.

Asked why Israel should make this charge, he responds in an unexpected, but for him, characteristic way. Another Palestinian official might accuse Israel of trying to torpedo the Oslo accords.

But Jabali writes it all off as a matter of professional jealousy.

"The whole problem with the Israelis is they are amazed at how the police force has developed. This is why their argument is against me and not against any other part of our security organization," Jabali said.

He adds that his Israeli colleagues have

settlement near Nablus last month.

Asked why Israel should make this charge, he responds in an unexpected, but for him, characteristic way. Another Palestinian official might accuse Israel of trying to torpedo the Oslo accords.

But Jabali writes it all off as a matter of professional jealousy.

"The whole problem with the Israelis is they are amazed at how the police force has developed. This is why their argument is against me and not against any other part of our security organization," Jabali said.

He adds that his Israeli colleagues have

Some 50 fragments of medieval manuscripts are now at the Israel Museum. Sounds dull? Well, they form one of the most exciting and moving exhibitions I have ever seen.

Meir Ronnen
The Jerusalem Post

THE CAIRO GENIZA SEMINAR



In 1896 at the Ben Ezra Synagogue in the Fustat area of old Cairo, Prof. Solomon Schechter of Cambridge University revealed to the world the staggering contents of its Geniza. 140,000 fragments were given to the Cambridge University for study. In the whole history of Judaic studies there has never been a more dramatic event than the discovery of these ancient documents. Poetry, prayers, accounts of journeys, files, tens of thousands of handwritten documents, some signed by the Rambam himself, and much more. A hundred years have passed and still not all the material has been

studied. Now a selection on loan from Cambridge is on view in Jerusalem. It presents a vivid picture of the spiritual - and not so spiritual - mores and business dealings of a medieval Jewish community.

Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club invite you to a weekend seminar with the experts, Prof. Stefan Reif, Head of the Cairo Archive, Cambridge University, and Prof. Mordechai Akiva Friedman, Jewish Culture in Moslem Lands and Cairo Geniza Studies, Tel Aviv University.

DATE: Friday and Saturday, 19-20 September
AT: Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza, Jerusalem.
PRICE: NIS 670 per person in double room, half board (Shabbat dinner and breakfast), three lectures, tour of the exhibition at the Israel Museum, and use of hotel facilities.

Reservations and further information:
SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Jerusalem 91074, Tel. 02-5666231 (9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)
Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

3 ONE-DAY TRIPS with Shorashim & The Jerusalem Post Travel Club

Spend a day away-from-it-all on one of Shorashim's entertaining and enlightening English speaking trips. You'll meet your sort of people, visit off-the-beaten-track places and hear interesting and informative explanations from expert guides.

Space is limited so book early and avoid disappointment.

Thursday Sept. 4
ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY
In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitallers Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter - little Italy in the Holy Land - the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more. NIS 150
Tour guide: Danny Syon

Thursday Sept. 11
A DAY ON THE KIBBUTZ
Things have changed since they used to dance the Hora all night long, after a day in the fields. We'll spend the whole day with the kibbutzniks of Ma'agan Michael and Sdot Yam. We'll hear about their history, traditions, successes and failures, the problems and the future. We'll visit the many different sectors of the Kibbutz, including lunch. NIS 195
Tour guide: Martin ben Moreh

Wednesday Sept. 17
IN ISRAEL'S GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND
Environmental awareness is pretty low in Israel. This tour, the first of its kind, will take you to Hiryts, Tel Aviv's great garbage mountain, the Shafran recycling center, the Yarkon River - now being cleaned and rejuvenated - and we'll meet Greenpeace activists. Concerned? A trip not to be missed. NIS 160
Tour guide: Dany Morgenstern

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. 10% discount when you book all three tours. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.
Reservations and further information:
SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074. Tel. 02-566-6231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)
Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without THE JERUSALEM POST
Subscribe Today! Call 02-531-5610

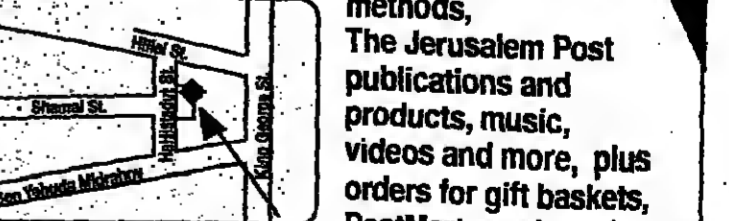
Travel with the Experts
Midnight Express
Bus/Private tours to EGYPT daily

JORDAN
Special Offer
Full day Tour to Petra \$99
Depart from Jerusalem every Tuesday

London Center
Best Deals on Tours and Packages
Flight + 3 nights from \$498

MAZADA TOURS
TEL-AVIV: 141 Ibn Gvirol St. Tel. 972-3-5444454, Fax. 972-3-5461924
JERUSALEM: Tel. 972-2-5255777, Fax. 972-2-5255454

COME VISIT The New Jerusalem Post Store
A vast selection of books, gifts, Judaica, multimedia, maps and tour guides, posters, holiday specials, children's items, Hebrew learning methods.



The Jerusalem Post Store
Open to the public
Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Telephone 02-6241282, Fax 02-6241212, Email: orders@jpost.co.il
22 HaHistadrut St. (1st floor) Downtown Jerusalem - just off the Ben Yehuda Midrahov

MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

When, exactly a century ago today, some 200 white-tied, frock-coated delegates from 16 countries greeted Theodor Herzl...

right lunacy, has been realized. In fact, Israel is essentially the very haven for oppressed Jews that its 19th-century architects had envisioned.

STILL, as we celebrate this historic centennial, some serious questions arise. First, Zionism may have ultimately given the Jews a powerful army, but only after a third of our people were annihilated in Europe.

has resurfaced two centuries later in Israel's diplomatic travails. Thirdly, though Hebrew has developed admirably, its durability has yet to be proven (in many ways it is already giving way to English), as does the significance of its reemergence.

they sought to address have been solved, and replaced by new ones. Zionism's major raison d'etre, namely solving the problem of Jewish political plight, no longer exists.

Dry Bones



SHABBAT SHALOM

Jerusalem of joy



By SHLOMO RISKIN

Parashat Re'eh

"And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God in the place that the Lord your God shall choose to be designated in His name." (Deut. 16:11)

Although the American constitution guarantees "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," and the US Supreme Court has defined the legal parameters of life and liberty, the exact meaning of happiness remains elusive.

Ashkenazi gloss on the Shulchan Aruch, rules that the priestly benediction wherein the kohanim call on the Divine to "lift up His Countenance and bring peace" can be recited in the Diaspora only on the major festivals.

The PLO's 'heroic chapters'

A VIEW FROM NOW



By MOSHE KOHN

Two decades ago The Washington Post, whose name many people still utter in nearly the same awed whisper in which they still utter "The New York Times," published a collection of its staff's writings, Of the Press, by the press, for the press, and others, too (edited by Laura Langley Babb, Revised edition, Houghton Mifflin, 1976).

because it doesn't represent a sovereign state. Lancaster mentions it in his story, however, using the occasion for a swipe at Israel: "A positive atmosphere in peace talks encouraged Jordan and the Palestinian Authority to open their political systems."

Media Review & Analysis, for his summary of the Gallup poll results.) CORINNE Whitlatch, executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace, agrees with Lancaster concerning the responsibility for the lack of democracy in the PA.

HERE IN Israel, as in most other lands, a "zealot" or an "extremist" is someone who believes in something that is outside the so-called elite's "respectability" consensus. Hence, a Reform rabbi who officiates at a same-sex, interfaith wedding is not a "Reform zealot" or anything like that, but a liberal who is "not judgmental" of "alternative lifestyles."

SECOND PRINTING OF MICHAEL EVENART'S THE AWAKENING DESERT - The Autobiography of an Israeli Scientist

Ministry of Immigrant Absorption Employment Department

Ministry of Health Public Health Services Immunizations in Elementary Schools and Junior High Schools During the 1997/98 School Year

TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS BUSINESS established 1986 in Switzerland, seeks loan of \$75,000 - \$100,000 to redden bank commitment.

To Our Readers Some of the advertisements appearing in our papers are type set outside The Post.

KEE INTERNATIONAL Personal import since 1979 EUROPEAN/AMERICAN APPLIANCES INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING

BRILLE PUBLICATIONS In English and Hebrew, available FREE for the blind.

Table with columns for company names and stock prices. Includes Union Carbide, Union Electric, Union Pacific, etc.

Table with columns for company names and stock prices. Includes Allied Domecq, BAT Inc., Biff, etc.

Table with columns for company names and stock prices. Includes Aker, Air Liquide, Alstom, etc.

Table with columns for company names and stock prices. Includes Allianz AG, BASF, Bayer, etc.

Table with columns for company names and stock prices. Includes Cel (Basket), U.S. Dollar, British Pound, etc.

Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments, Tel. 09-958-5873. All other data supplied by Commstock Trading Ltd., Tel. 02-624-4963.

Foreign Exchange Rates: Sel (Basket) 3.752, U.S. Dollar 3.516, British Pound 3.677.

Table titled 'ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS' showing Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) for 3, 6, and 12 months.

Table titled 'Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates' showing rates for various currencies like U.S. dollar, German mark, etc.

Table titled 'NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES' showing DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, DJ Utilities, etc.

Table titled 'NYSE STOCKS' showing Decisions, Share movements, etc.

Table titled 'OTHER MARKET INDEXES' showing FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

Table titled 'DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)' showing Pound, Swiss Franc, etc.

Table titled 'US COMMODITIES' showing Cocoa, Coffee, Wheat, etc.

Table titled 'LONDON COMMODITIES' showing Cocoa, Coffee, etc.

Table titled 'SPOT MARKET METALS (US)' showing Gold, Silver, etc.

Table titled 'NEW YORK METAL FUTURES' showing Gold, Silver, etc.

Table titled 'LONDON METAL FIXES' showing Gold AM fix, Gold PM fix, etc.

Table titled 'DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA' with logo and contact info.

Pacific Mediterranean Capital Markets Group. Stock broking, Equity & micro research, Money management, Corporate finance.

Table titled 'ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS' showing Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) for 3, 6, and 12 months.

Table titled 'Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates' showing rates for various currencies like U.S. dollar, German mark, etc.

Listless TASE slumps

Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv Israeli stocks closed lower yesterday as investors assessed trading in New York and awaited new economic indicators that could affect future interest rates.

Volume was very low at 115 million shekels. Leading stocks down were Bank Hapoalim Ltd., down 0.5 percent to 7.62 shekels (\$2.17).

The Maof Index of 25 shares slipped 0.52 % to 295.05. The Mishkan index of 100 shares slid 0.36 % to 287.52.

The market is waiting for new information to come from the macroeconomic side or from Wall Street," said Daniela Finn, head of research at securities firm Ilanot Batucha.

Europe

UK stocks dropped, dragged down by HSBC Holdings Plc, Standard Chartered Plc and other companies whose profit depends on their Asian business.

The FT-SE 100 Index, London's benchmark share measure, slid 61.5 points, or 1.3 % to 4845.4 after rising to 4925.6 in morning trading.

Broader UK markets also fell. The FT-SE 250 Index of mid-sized companies fell 28.2 points to 4621.4, while the FT-SE Acauries 350, a combination of the other two, fell 26.7 to 2340.5.

Asia

Japanese stocks traded mixed. Banks gained on optimism the government will maintain record-low interest rates and electronics shares slipped after Japan's biggest brokerage cut its earnings estimates for chipmakers such as NEC Corp.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index rose 9.51 points, or 0.05 %, to 18,451.45. The Topix Index of all shares on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange fell 4.68, or 0.32 %, to 1438.10.

Chipmakers slipped for a second day after Nomura Financial Research Center senior analyst Hideki Wakabayashi lowered his profit forecast for semiconductor makers because of lower prices for memory chips worldwide.

Wall Street

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks closed lower yesterday as a sell-off in technology shares pulled the market down in a volatile, topsy-turvy session.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average was off 92.90 points, or nearly 2 percent, at 6,794.43 after swinging in a range of nearly 155 points.

In the broader market, declining issues led advances by a small margin on moderate volume of 486 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Mark on brink of 11-year low versus dollar

The dollar has hit a one-month speed bump in its two-and-a-half year ascent against the mark, after the Bundesbank threatened to raise interest rates to bolster its currency.

Investors said, however, the rise seen in the US currency since April 1995 has only been slowed, not stopped, with further gains likely in the months ahead.

"There had to be a consolidation in the dollar. The rally was too fast, too soon," said Thilo Steiger, who helps manage 220 million marks at AXA Fondmanagement in Wiesbaden.

gains is evidence growth in the world's largest economy is picking up steam, combined with concern Europe's planned single currency, the euro, will be weaker than the mark.

The dollar has been on a roll since April 1995, when it dropped to a post-war low of 1.35 marks. After surging to an eight-year high of 1.8905 marks on Aug. 6, the US currency slipped as low as 1.7922 marks earlier this week.

"The motor for the US currency's gains is evidence growth in the world's largest economy is picking up steam, combined with concern Europe's planned single currency, the euro, will be weaker than the mark."

CURRENCIES

Table showing currency rates: Dollar 3.5160, Basket 3.7652, Mark 1.9444, Sterling 5.6717.

isn't yet convinced it needs to raise interest rates to curb inflation. "The potential is still there to go through 1.90" marks, said Keith Kelsall, who helps manage \$30 billion in assets at Fiduciary Trust International Ltd. in London.

COMMODITIES

Table showing commodity prices: Gold \$326.75, Brent Oil \$18.57, CRB 239.82.

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield. The inventory increase, "can save the market from a real debacle, because it might help stem growth in the second half," said Kevin

exchange rate now than he was two weeks ago. "We're positioned toward a stronger dollar."

The US currency's climb has been broken in the past month by signs that Germany's central bank may be preparing the ground for its first increase in rates for five years.

Coffee prices soared after climbing in New York Wednesday on speculation that a labor dispute in Brazil could disrupt exports from the world's biggest producer.

Others

Coffee prices soared after climbing in New York Wednesday on speculation that a labor dispute in Brazil could disrupt exports from the world's biggest producer.

Precious metals

\$189.50 an ounce. Spot platinum rose \$4 to \$407.50 an ounce. Gold prices were little changed in London inter-bank trading.

Energy

Crude oil prices were little changed to lower after gasoline prices sprung a 6 percent recovery Wednesday, and the move made traders cautious of betting on crude prices before the US opens.

SOLDIERS

Continued from Page 1. One wounded soldier described the ordeal to an Itim reporter at Rambam hospital where he was brought along with three others burned in the blaze.

US bonds gain on slowing inflation

US bonds rose for the second time in three days after a government report on second-quarter growth suggested the economy is still growing without much inflation.

"As long as inflation stays down, the market isn't that concerned about growth," said Ken Anderson, who oversees about \$7 billion in bonds for Evergreen Asset Management Corp. in Purchase, New York.

The 30-year Treasury bond rose 3/8 point after a slide in US stocks sent the dollar reeling, raising concern foreign investors will shy away from Treasury securities and other US assets.

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield. The inventory increase, "can save the market from a real debacle, because it might help stem growth in the second half," said Kevin

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield. The inventory increase, "can save the market from a real debacle, because it might help stem growth in the second half," said Kevin

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield. The inventory increase, "can save the market from a real debacle, because it might help stem growth in the second half," said Kevin

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield. The inventory increase, "can save the market from a real debacle, because it might help stem growth in the second half," said Kevin

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield. The inventory increase, "can save the market from a real debacle, because it might help stem growth in the second half," said Kevin

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield. The inventory increase, "can save the market from a real debacle, because it might help stem growth in the second half," said Kevin

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield. The inventory increase, "can save the market from a real debacle, because it might help stem growth in the second half," said Kevin

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield. The inventory increase, "can save the market from a real debacle, because it might help stem growth in the second half," said Kevin

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield. The inventory increase, "can save the market from a real debacle, because it might help stem growth in the second half," said Kevin

strong wind started blowing in our direction. We didn't really notice at first what was happening. When we did, the fire was right below us and spreading rapidly upwards," he said.

"We reached the top and then the unit commander and myself turned back, when the flames had passed, and went back down about 20 or 30 meters in order to help our comrades."

"It was terrible. They were all burned. We couldn't help because of the fire and the heat. It was horrible," he said.

During the fighting yesterday, IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Jabal Shafiq region in the eastern sector of south Lebanon, north of the security zone.

The army spokesman said the pilots reported direct hits and that all the planes returned safely to their bases.

Reports from Lebanon said the jets fired air-to-ground missiles at a deserted house apparently used by

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or margin note.

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, possibly a page number or margin note.

JP Special price: NIS 100

PM: Korean DMZ not feasible for Golan

By JAY BUSHINSKY

PANMUNJOM, Korea - After going halfway across the Bridge of No Return and walking back to the US and South Korean side of this divided peninsula's demilitarized zone (DMZ), Prime Minister Netanyahu said he saw little chance of Israel and Syria making a similar arrangement in the Golan Heights.

"The fact that peace is maintained [on the Golan] is due to our military power," Netanyahu said. "Like us, they [the South Koreans] are seeking a way to make all of these fortifications unnecessary," he added, saying he did not foresee any possibility of an imminent solution to Israel's military problem.

This was the second and last day of his official visit to Korea. He is scheduled to return to Israel today after a refueling stop in Baku, Azerbaijan, and an airport meeting there with his counterpart.

Netanyahu wore a tiger-striped army field jacket that seemed identical to the ones used by his hosts, the US Army. "I kept this one since basic training in the paratroop corps," he quipped, recalling his days as an IDF combat officer.

Netanyahu was the fifth foreign leader and the first Israeli prime minister to visit the 42-year old DMZ, which was carved across the Korean landscape as part of the armistice agreement that ended the war between Korea's communist north and democratic south.

He saw intricate anti-infiltration fences that stretch for 246 km. from east to west, a Potemkin-type North Korean village that flies the biggest national flag in the world from atop an Eifel-like tower and a rival Republic of Korea banner on this side of the armistice line.

Speaking at a news conference on his return to Seoul, Netanyahu said the "topographical and geographical conditions" are different

in the Golan Heights and the size of the forces deployed there are not the same.

He contended that the best way to formulate a plan to "achieve peace with Syria" was to examine conditions "in our North" rather than to follow the Korean example.

With Sara Netanyahu and his official party, the prime minister took a 45-minute drive in his limousine-studded motorcade from Seoul to the DMZ, spent an hour there and drove back.

He breakfasted with the Korean capital's parliamentary friendship group, lunched with the heads of Korea's four major business associations (FKI, KFSA, KCCI and KFTA), met the chairman of the national assembly, toured the Samsung Semiconductors plant in nearby Ki-Heung City, was interviewed by the Korean Broadcasting System and conferred with the chairman of the Hanwha Group, one of whose trade representatives is based in Israel.

"There is a great synergy between Korea's production, management and marketing ability and Israel's capacity in key aspects of advanced technology," he said at the news conference.

Asked to specify the high-tech areas to which he was referring, Netanyahu listed "software, electronics, robotics, biotechnology and lasers and telecommunications."

"There is no area in which Korea engages to which Israel cannot contribute. We can develop the technology you need," he said.

Turning to Korea's and Israel's common security concerns, Netanyahu said President Kim Young-sam and he discussed the "proliferation of ballistic missiles" and the danger of North Korean missiles being exported to Iran and the subsequent relay of advanced Russian rocket-propulsion technology to North Korea.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara answer reporters' questions after visiting the demilitarized zone between north and south Korea yesterday. (AP)

ANALYSIS

Far East trip had mixed results

By JAY BUSHINSKY

SEOUL - Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's jet age effort to open up "a golden window" for Israeli trade with the Far East was most successful in the Republic of Korea, less so in Japan and too brief to judge in China.

The Koreans have an affinity for him personally and for Israel in general. One senior diplomat said the public here has been following his career with admiration since the days when as ambassador to the United Nations he had to stand up against all the Arab states except Egypt.

And Koreans see themselves as being in a situation similar to Israel's - constantly threatened

by war and terrorism, dependent on foreign (in their case, American) troops to keep the peace and forced to use their ingenuity to make up for a total lack of natural resources.

Netanyahu's oratorical theme, restated in all of his public speeches here, was that Israel's innovative talent combined with Korea's manufacturing and marketing ability was a natural "marriage."

He used it in Japan, too, but with less dramatic results. The Japanese rightly see themselves as an economic superpower whose industrial ineptiveness and technological knowhow has generated a trillion dollar economy. Their need for Israel's high-tech capacity is uncertain if not nonexistent.

Korea's industrial conglomerates are opening trade offices in Israel, its entrepreneurs are entering joint ventures with Israeli partners and its citizens are keen on visiting Israel.

that the Arab oil-producing states no longer can corner the international oil market, cannot impose another oil embargo and are comparatively static consumers compared to Israel's burgeoning yen for imports, traditional policies are slow to change in Tokyo.

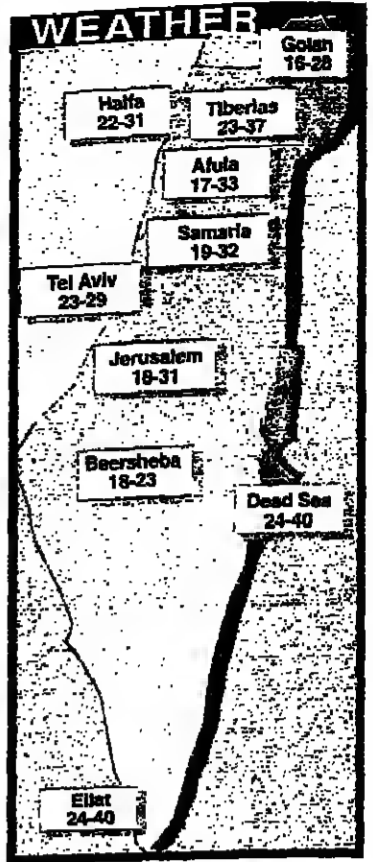
Perhaps the prime minister's sales pitch may have been a bit too shrill for Japanese ears. Perhaps his hastily arranged itinerary seemed incomplete without the customary call on their emperor (he was away on vacation) and without the reassuring presence of their foreign minister (he was abroad).

But had Netanyahu waited one more year for Japan to be able to grant him one of the four annual official visits budgeted for foreign heads of government, there would have been no chance of his potential business partners attending the Prime Minister's Economic Conference in November, 1998.

The prime minister evidently decided that the opportunity to pay an official visit to Korea justified a bold foray into Japan as well, even if the level of protocol was lower than the Japanese might have preferred.

His prognosis of future events in Israel, which is not necessarily shared with the news media, may have prompted him to go while the going was still good. As for China, how much can be expected from an airport stopover? It may have been the harbinger of a much more elaborate visit at a later date.

And above all, Netanyahu managed to get his main message across to all three Asian interlocutors: that Iran's attempt to become a nuclear power and acquire deadly ballistic missiles must be thwarted not only for the sake of Israel's national security, but also in the interest of world peace. His warnings on that score evidently did not fall on deaf ears in Beijing, Tokyo and Seoul.



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	C	HIGH	WIND
Amsterdam	18	24	24	75
Buenos Aires	15	28	28	77
Chicago	19	26	26	77
Copenhagen	21	20	24	76
Frankfurt	19	26	26	76
Geneva	19	26	26	76
Hong Kong	27	31	30	80
London	17	15	21	70
Los Angeles	20	28	28	77
Moscow	15	21	21	70
Mumbai	28	31	31	77
New York	21	27	27	76
Paris	17	23	23	76
Rome	17	23	23	76
Stockholm	17	23	23	76
Sydney	28	31	31	77
Tokyo	24	28	28	76
Toronto	14	22	22	75
Zurich	16	21	21	75

שטיחי אלף ששן
CELEBRATION FOR ALL CUSTOMERS IN A BIG ORIENTAL TENT!
SPECIAL ONE-OF-A-KIND PRE-HOLIDAY SALE
Huge reductions of up to 50%
Handmade carpets - Persian, Turkish, Afghan, Uzbeki, etc.
Large selection of handmade cushions
 The sale will take place from
Sunday, August 31 until September 7, 9:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 (Friday, Sept. 5: 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
 Saturday, Sept. 6: 8:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.)
This isn't an ad - it's a fact!
 Eli Sassoon Carpets, 46 Rehov Ben-Gurion, Herzliya
 09-555-5097, 09-956-2573

Tandoori @ Kohinoor
INDIAN RESTAURANT
 Special Buffet Lunch - NIS 44
 (children - NIS 22) served 12:30-3:30 p.m.
 Dinner 7:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
 Please call for reservations

Winners of the Chaine des Rotisseurs world famous restaurant award

FUTUREKIDS BECAUSE YOU KNOW THERE'S MORE TO COMPUTERS THAN JUST GAMES.
 Registration is starting NOW for FUTUREKIDS' new, exciting, challenging year-long, after-school program:
FUTUREKIDS MEDIA INTERNATIONAL
 Also offered: Special workshops for youth (7th grade and up) and adult courses on beginner and advanced levels
 In Jerusalem: Ramot, in our new, modern center at 39 Rehov Lipski
GRAND OPENING PARTY, Sunday, Aug. 31, 4-7 p.m.
 Baka, in cooperation with ARI-Siran Technological College
 7 Derech Beit Lehem
 For more information, please call 02-571-1613

JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS
Help scientists find the causes of schizophrenia!
 The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in the U.S., together with leading Israeli hospitals, will be conducting a study to identify the biological causes of schizophrenia in Ashkenazim. Both environmental and genetic factors are believed to play a role in determining who is susceptible to the disease.
 Although Ashkenazim do not have a higher rate of these disorders, the fact that the community has evolved from a limited number of ancestors and that Ashkenazim often marry from the same ethnic background, provides unique opportunities for genetic analysis.
 For more information, please leave a message 24 hours a day (excluding Shabbat) for our Israeli research coordinator (Hebrew or English) at 02-648-0253, or contact Dr. Amy E. Pavver (English speakers only) in the United States BY CALLING COLLECT via an operator to 410-955-0455, Mon. - Fri. between 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.
 E-mail: pavper@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu; Fax: 410-955-0644
 All participant expenses paid. Confidentiality Assured!

"LADY 2000" PRODUCES REMARKABLE RESULTS!
SMOOTH, HAIRLESS SKIN QUICKLY AND ECONOMICALLY
 Sole Distributor of "Lady 2000": High-Tech Cosmetics, Tel. 03-5251292
 For questions call 177-022-1441
 For more info., see our advert in The Weekend Magazine, Page 13

STEINMATZKY INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLERS IN PAPERBACK

Oliver Sacks (Picador) PRICE NIS 52.60	John Gray (Thorsons) PRICE NIS 69.90
Oliver Sacks (Picador) PRICE NIS 52.60	John Gray (Harper Collins) PRICE NIS 59.90
Oliver Sacks (Picador) PRICE NIS 52.60	John Gray (Vermilion) PRICE NIS 69.90

STEINMATZKY MEANS BOOKS